

Attar, Aliyev discuss S. Yemen

MOSCOW (R) — North Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Sa'ad Al Attar met Soviet politburo member Geidar Aliyev in Moscow on Tuesday for talks which included the crisis in South Yemen, TASS news agency reported. It said the talks concentrated on technical and economic cooperation but also ranged over the situation in North Yemen's neighbour, South Yemen, where hundreds died in bitter fighting between rival factions in the government earlier this month. TASS said Mr. Attar and Aliyev stressed that life in South Yemen should return to normal as soon as possible without any interference from outside. South Yemen, under its new leader Haider Abu Bakar Al Attas, remains one of Moscow's staunchest Arab allies but the Kremlin's ties with its neighbour are also close.

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U.N. seeks new round of Cyprus talks

NICOSIA (R) — Brian Urquhart, retiring soon as head of U.N. peace-keeping operations, told Cypriot leaders on Tuesday the United Nations secretary general wants early new talks on the future of divided Cyprus, a U.N. source said. "Mr. Urquhart brought letters from Javier Perez de Cuellar who wants an early date for a new round of talks and who feels such efforts will result in progress," the source told Reuters. Mr. Urquhart arrived in Cyprus on Tuesday for a two-day farewell visit. U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs Gustave Feissel also flew in and will stay until Saturday. The envoys saw President Spyros Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, the source said. He said Mr. Perez de Cuellar considered his efforts on Cyprus to be "at an important juncture."

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2 Israelis stabbed in West Bank

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Israelis were stabbed in separate incidents by assailants believed to be Palestinians, Israeli army radio reported Tuesday. One stabbing victim was hospitalized with moderate to serious wounds, the radio said. He was attacked Monday evening by two men pretending to have car trouble in north Jerusalem, the radio said, adding that Cohen said he believed his attackers were Arabs. In another incident near Tel Aviv, Miri Levy was attacked by an Arab Palestinian from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip to whom she had given a lift, the radio said.

Arafat sends message to Spain

MADRID (AP) — An envoy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat met on Tuesday with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez. Foad Yassin held a brief meeting with Mr. Fernandez Ordonez and although Spanish Foreign Ministry officials did not indicate the matters discussed, it was believed they dealt with the establishment of diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel. Officials said Mr. Yassin travelled to Spain to deliver Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez a personal message from Mr. Arafat. The content of the message was not made public.

Pakistan drops key minister

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo dropped Finance Minister Mahbubul Haq when he named a new 35-member cabinet on Tuesday. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khattak retain their important portfolios. Min Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, formerly in charge of education, is the new finance minister.

Danes to vote on EC reforms

COPENHAGEN (R) — The Danish parliament voted on Tuesday in favour of holding a referendum on controversial European Community (EC) reforms. The parliament passed, by 82 votes to nil with 66 abstentions, a resolution urging the government to legislate for a consultative referendum on reforms to the community's founding treaty. The four government parties, backed by the small opposition Radical and left socialist parties, voted for the resolution, officials said.

100 detained in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Soldiers surrounded two villages and took away about 100 people on Tuesday during searches for Tamil separatist guerrillas in Sri Lanka's eastern province, residents said. They told Reuters the people were being held for questioning. A village official said security forces also arrested the chairman of a local citizens committee in Batticaloa district last week.

Jordan and PLO continuing talks on peace process

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held more talks on Tuesday on means to revive the Middle East peace process.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Tuesday's talks "were a continuation of Monday's talks which focused on the peace process and the different aspects of an international peace conference which constitutes the basis for efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East."

The talks followed a meeting between the King and Mr. Arafat on Sunday and two meetings between the PLO leader and Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai on Monday.

Both sides kept a tight lid on the contents of Tuesday's talks which were described by well-informed sources as "extremely important and significant."

Palestinian sources said that both Jordan and the PLO were trying to work out a suitable formula in which the organisation can accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

There was no indication by Tuesday that the organisation was

ready to change its previously declared position that it would not accept 242 and 338 without a reciprocal American recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The sources said that both sides have not reached a final agreement yet but talks will continue.

They said that main obstacle "was that the U.S. is still refusing to recognise the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in return for the organisation's acceptance of the two resolutions."

King Hussein met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy last week in London and reportedly discussed with him way and means of overcoming obstacles to convening an international peace conference in which the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved participate.

Jordan and the PLO have called for such an international peace

conference. U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters on Sunday that Mr. Murphy discussed with the King and later with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres "very specific ideas about the peace process."

The spokesman said he was unable to specify exactly what progress had been made and he cautioned that any progress would be "incremental" and that no major breakthroughs should be expected.

"King Hussein ... and Prime Minister Peres of Israel have publicly spoken for some months now about their desire to enter direct negotiations under agreed circumstances. In particular, the King has unequivocally stated his firm commitment to negotiate directly with Israel within an appropriate international context, and the prime minister has expressed understanding and support for such an approach," Kalb said.

"Their shared resolve to further the peace process is not in doubt." "The issues upon which attention has been concentrated in recent months, as we have noted previously, center on two subjects: the form of the international context and the nature of Palestinian participation," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

Resign or face consequences, Franjeh tells Lebanon president

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shooting erupted along Beirut's "green line" battlefield on Tuesday as Syria's key Christian ally in Lebanon issued an ultimatum to beleaguered President Amine Gemayel to quit or face the consequences.

"We call on the president of the republic to resign immediately... otherwise we will adopt various methods to ensure this," former President Suleiman Franjeh said. Mr. Franjeh, a 75-year-old politician and militia leader closely linked with Syria, delivered the ultimatum at a press conference in his northern home town of Zgharta.

As Mr. Gemayel faced increasing isolation, Beirut was rocked by explosions from rocket-propelled grenades Monday night and the third of heavy machinegun fire, wounding many residents and sending them diving for cover.

Sniper fire continued on Tuesday and the Voice of Lebanon radio said a woman and her daughter were wounded while crossing the green line.

Beirut has been relatively calm for the past four days despite a mounting crisis of confidence over

Mr. Gemayel's refusal to back a Syrian-backed plan to end 10 years of civil war.

Mr. Franjeh called on the Lebanese army not to side with Mr. Gemayel and he invited political parties and labour groups to join the movement to topple the 43-year-old president.

"We call on our proud army to take its place with the honourable Lebanese... and not to allow anyone to involve it in battles the aim of which is to protect the particular and partisan interests of the president," he said.

"We will invite influential political, economic, social and labour forces to participate."

Pro-Syrian militias, angered by Mr. Gemayel's refusal to endorse the accord, have ringed his home village of Biktaya and exchanged artillery and tank fire with army units defending the mountainous region above Beirut.

Mr. Gemayel failed to gather his cabinet on Monday to discuss and refer to parliament the militia accord, which would reduce the prerogatives of the Christian presidency and give more political power to Lebanon's Muslim majority.

Only three of the nine cabinet members responded to his call, which was angrily dismissed by Muslim leaders including Prime Minister Rashid Karani.

Mr. Franjeh said Mr. Gemayel's attempt to convene the cabinet was "mere stalling, unconstitutional and illegal."

The accord was signed in Damascus by Elie Hobeika, then commander of the "Lebanese Forces" militia and Mr. Gemayel's main challenger for leadership of Lebanon's 1.6 million Christians.

Walid Junblatt signed for the Progressive Socialist Party and Justice Minister Nabih Berri signed for the Shiite Amal militia.

Mr. Gemayel's Falange Party militia and renegades of the Lebanese Forces led by Mr. Hobeika's second-in-command Samir Geagea joined forces in a bloody crackdown on Mr. Hobeika's supporters in east Beirut and the Christian heartland.

Police said at least 350 people were killed and more than 650 wounded in that confrontation that scuttled the Damascus accord, which many Lebanese saw as their last chance to end the decade-old civil war.

Red Cross team arrives in Aden

ADEN (R) — A International Red Cross team with 15 tonnes of medical supplies arrived in Aden on Tuesday to try to help thousands wounded in 12 days of fighting between rival South Yemeni factions.

Its arrival followed an appeal by interim head of state Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas for international aid to help rebuild Aden, widely devastated in the fighting.

Banks and government offices reopened for the first time for two weeks on Tuesday but schools, acting as temporary homes for hundreds made homeless by the fighting, remained shut.

Mr. Attas, appointed to head the government last Friday, toured the central bank and the treasury and called on all employees to report to work.

The newspaper Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), said thousands of people turned up Monday night at a rally in support of the new leaders in the city of Ja'ar.

Shamir alleges Egypt is violating 1979 treaty

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir accused Egypt on Tuesday of violating its 1979 treaty with Israel and said the cool relationship between the two countries has dimmed prospects for broader Israeli-Arab peace moves.

Commenting on this week's high-level Egyptian-Israeli contacts in Cairo, Shamir said Egypt's refusal to reassign an ambassador to Tel Aviv and its support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) violated the treaty.

"If our peace with Egypt does not lead to normal relations between our two countries there is little chance for achieving peace with any of the other Arab states," Shamir told the World Jewish Congress.

On Monday, cabinet minister Ezer Weizman returned from meetings with President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian leaders without gaining Cairo's agreement for a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres (See page 2).

Shamir said Israel made "huge

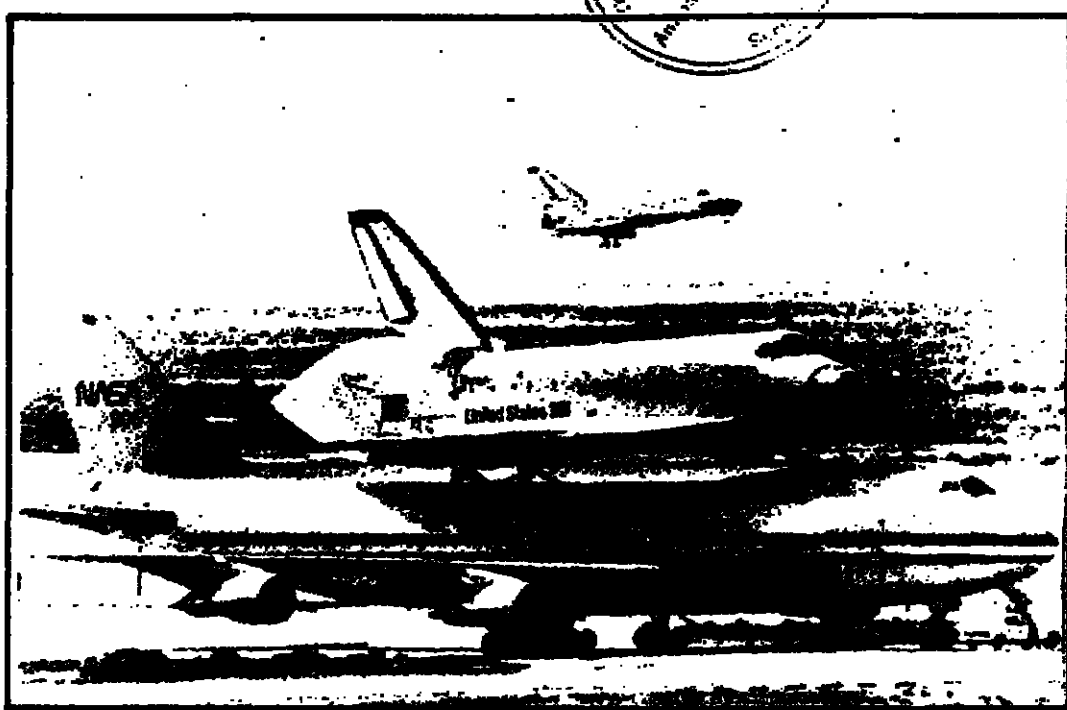
sacrifices" under the 1979 treaty but was receiving little in return. After months of cabinet arguments, the Israeli government this month accepted Egyptian demands to submit to international arbitration a border dispute over the Red Sea beach of Tabu.

Israel said it hoped this would pave the way for improving relations, near-frozen since Cairo withdrew its ambassador to Tel Aviv following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Egypt has rejected Israeli demands that Cairo first deliver a report on last October's killings of seven Israelis by an Egyptian policeman in the Sinai.

Weizman, a minister without portfolio in charge of Arab affairs, told reporters he would recommend Israel accept and study an Egyptian transcript of the policeman's trial and then decide if it wanted more information.

The policeman was jailed for life and found hanged in his cell in what authorities said was a suicide.



The space shuttle Challenger sits atop a 747 Boeing Jumbo jet at Edwards Air Force Base in California as its sister Columbia comes in for a landing after a mission in 1982. The Challenger was awaiting a

cross-country ferry trip to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The dual landing and take-off, on July 4, 1982, drew a record crowd (Filephoto)

Space shuttle explodes moments after blast-off

All 7 crewmembers feared dead

CAPE CANAVERAL (Agencies) — Space shuttle Challenger exploded into a gigantic fireball moments after lift-off on Tuesday, apparently killing all seven crew members including a schoolteacher.

"We have no word on the fate of the astronauts," a U.S. space agency official said. Pieces of the shuttle fell into the Atlantic Ocean about 14 kilometres from the launch site. Recovery ships were in the area but there was no report on survivors nearly an hour later.

The explosion occurred about four minutes into the flight after what appeared to be a flawless launch.

After a series of weather and technical delays, the shuttle rose spectacularly off the launch pad at 1638 GMT and was climbing smoothly trailing a geyser of fire when suddenly it erupted in a huge fireball and shot out of control.

The explosion was a devastating setback for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) after successfully carrying out 24 space shuttle missions in slightly less than five years.

There were seven crew members aboard, including Christa McAuliffe, a 37-year-old New Hampshire teacher selected as America's first citizen in space.

King cables condolences to Reagan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday offered his condolences to President Ronald Reagan and to the American people on the loss of the American space shuttle Challenger and its crew. In a telegram he sent to the U.S. president, the King conveyed his condolences and those of the Jordanian people and government to the U.S. government and the American people and the bereaved families of the Challenger crew.

There were seven crew members aboard, including Christa McAuliffe, a 37-year-old New Hampshire teacher selected as America's first citizen in space.

Qadhafi, Benjedid meet in border town

ALGIERS (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid met in the border town of In-Amenas, the official Algerian Press Service said.

Colonel Qadhafi, who was making his first visit to Algeria in 18 months, was met by Mr. Benjedid in the town 2,000 kilometres southeast of Algiers.

The Algerian agency did not give any details of what the two leaders were discussing, but Col. Qadhafi appeared to be trying to improve relations with his neighbours in the face of U.S. pressure over Libya's alleged support of extremism.

Relations between the two North African nations cooled in August 1984 after Libya concluded a treaty of union with Algeria's western neighbour, Morocco.

Algeria supports guerrillas of the Polisario movement fighting for independence for the Moroccan-annexed Western Sahara.

Renner adds: The summit marks a new twist in North Africa's delicate balance of power and is being closely watched by Morocco, western diplomats said.

Relations between Algiers and Tripoli dipped further last summer when Algeria expressed solidarity with Tunisia at the height of the Libyan-Tunisian crisis sparked by a massive expulsion of migrant workers from Libya.

But in November, diplomats in Tripoli detected signs that Libya was trying to break out of its isolation.

U.S. ships steam to edge of Sirte

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. warships steamed to the edge of the Gulf of Sirte on Tuesday but the Pentagon refused to confirm or deny reports that at least one ship would cross Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's "line of death" into the Gulf.

Quoting unidentified U.S. Defence Department officials, NBC Television reported that one ship would be sent into the stormy gulf before U.S. navy manoeuvres off Libya end on Friday.

The report said the ship might be the modern missile cruiser USS Yorktown, capable of fighting against attacking aircraft, missiles and surface ships all at the same time.

"I'm not going to tell you that we will or will not go in," Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims told Reuters on Tuesday. "We are nearby and that is all we are saying."

Washington has accused Col. Qadhafi of supporting terrorism and also disputes Libya's territorial claim to the Gulf of Sirte. U.S. jets shot down two Libyan fighters in a dogfight over the gulf in 1981.

Other Pentagon officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters that about 20 U.S. warships were near the gulf and that seas in the area were being whipped into five metres waves by 32 kph winds.

Sailing with the U.S. Sixth Fleet, but believed to be standing further away from parallel 32.5, are the U.S. aircraft carriers Coral Sea and Saratoga. They carry a total of about 170 planes, including F-14 and FA-18 fighter jets.

Col. Qadhafi has denied responsibility for the Dec. 27 guerrilla attacks at the Rome and

Vienna airports. He has warned that any U.S. attack on his country could result in a war.

Libya has complained to the United Nations about the U.S. manoeuvres, which Foreign Minister Ali Abdull Salam Al Tureki called a new link in a "chain of American provocations and aggression" against Libya (See page 2).

Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead on Tuesday disputed Israel's contention that Syria was behind the attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports and insisted that Libya was the culprit.

"We have no information that Syria was behind 'the Rome and Vienna attacks,' Mr. Whitehead said in a television interview.

"But we do have irrefutable evidence that Libya was involved in both of those actions," he said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday that the guerrillas who attacked the Rome airport were trained and instructed in Syria, and that the attackers of the Vienna airport may also have come from Syria.

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said on Tuesday that Col. Qadhafi has indicated he would discourage extremism in Europe in return for a United States guarantee not to attack Libya.

Mr. Craxi said the proposed deal was contained in a message he received on Tuesday from Maltese Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, who is attempting to mediate between Libya and Western governments.

Mr. Mifsud Bonnici said his recent contacts with the Libyan government led him to conclude that Col. Qadhafi was prepared to urge the Palestinian movement and

Khayyat calls on preachers to focus on Jerusalem

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Azziz Al Khayyat on Tuesday urged Muslim preachers to give additional attention to the situation in Arab Jerusalem in their sermons at mosques and expose Zionist plans to Judaize the Holy City and Haram Al Sharif.

Speaking at a meeting with preachers and senior ministry officials, Dr. Khayyat said Israeli attempts to storm Al Aqsa Mosque were designed as a prelude for seizing the holy shrine prior to rebuilding the Jewish temple. He called on all Muslims to take steps and liberate Jerusalem and the Arab people, and to extend all possible help to Arab people under Israeli rule to remain steadfast in the face of Israeli measures.

The situation in the occupied Arab territories is so grave and requires from preachers to draw the people's attention to the danger inherent in Israeli practices, the minister added.

He said there is no shred of evidence proving the presence of Jewish remains or antiquity within the compound of Haram Al Sharif and despite that fact the Israelis have been trying to invent evidence and distorting historical facts in the process for the purpose of giving themselves pretext to be present in the holy shrine.

At the United Nations on Monday, the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Syed Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, said Jerusalem must be "returned to Arab and Islamic sovereignty."

"I am mandated to state in unequivocal terms that the Islamic World will not tolerate the profanation and Judaisation of Islamic holy places. It will not accept repeated affronts to its deeply held religious beliefs," he told the Security Council.

"Jerusalem must be returned to Arab and Islamic sovereignty."

Mr. Pirzadeh was taking part in a resumed council debate on the situation in the Arab territories occupied by Israel, focussing on Arab complaints that the sanctity of Al Aqsa Mosque was violated during visits to the site by Israeli parliamentarians earlier this month.

Mr. Pirzadeh said his appearance before the council was in fulfilment of a mandate by the Jerusalem Committee of the OIC, which met last week in Marrakesh, Morocco, under the chairmanship of King Hassan.

Mr. Pirzadeh said he had been requested to convey the "deep sense of outrage and denunciation of the Islamic ummah, comprising more than a billion people, at the premeditated and planned profanation of the Islamic holy shrines by the Zionists in Al Quds Al Sharif and other occupied territories."

He referred in particular to the "repeated incursions into the holy Al Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli officials, police and security forces, members of the Knesset and even a member of the Israeli cabinet."

If Israel's professions of peace were honest, he said, it should implement U.N. decisions by "practising religious tolerance, by withdrawing from territories they have occupied, by recognising the rights of the people of Palestine to self-determination and statehood, by agreeing to the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East with the full and equal participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Malaysia's Ambassador Zain Azraai told the council recent events must be seen as "insidious and concerted attempts to destroy the Muslim character of Haram Al Sharif in order to pave the way for its complete Judaisation."

"The consequences of these acts on the peace process in the Middle East must be a matter of particular concern."

The council later adjourned without immediately setting a date for its next meeting.

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Mubarak calls for international conference to combat terrorism

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday called for an international conference to combat terrorism and determine "collective measures to be taken against countries that assist, instigate, train and shelter terrorists."

In a speech to the Council of Europe, Mr. Mubarak also called on West European countries to participate in an international Middle East peace conference and urged flexibility in scheduled interest payments by Third World debtor countries to Western creditors.

"We trust that a radical solution to this problem lies in achieving an accepted formula through mutual consent between the two parties to link export revenues to debt-servicing instalments," Mr. Mubarak said. Egypt has an estimated \$30 billion in foreign debts.

On terrorism, the Egyptian president said there were "several loopholes in the international mechanism" that could be closed by an international conference.

The shortcomings include "the inability (of existing treaties) to deal with the new forms of terrorism such as hijacking ships and their passengers" and "the fact that only a few countries have ratified those agreements."

He called for "the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to reconsider all agreements per-

taining to international terrorism, with a view to concluding a more comprehensive international convention to combat and deter terrorism."

Last weekend in Cairo, Mr. Mubarak accused unnamed Arab countries of planning "terrorist operations" against Egypt.

In his speech to the parliamentary assembly of the Council, Mr. Mubarak did not name specific countries allegedly involved in international terrorism, nor did he refer to U.S. sanctions against Libya. Washington accuses Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi of being behind the attacks Dec. 27 at Rome and Vienna airports.

Mr. Mubarak told representatives from the Council's 21 member countries that the anti-terrorist conference should establish a system of cooperation that "would include the exchange of information among the organs concerned, coping with terrorist schemes, as well as with the individuals and groups involved, the training of special units for combating terrorism and terrorists, the provision of equipment used in

such combat and the cooperation for the arrest of terrorists, their extradition, subsequent investigation and putting them on trial.

"This cooperation should also cover the collective measures to be taken against the countries that assist, instigate, train and shelter terrorists," Mr. Mubarak said. "That all should be undertaken in a way which would ensure that deterrent measures are not invested with a nature hostile to a national group or a group of countries or stemming from a political bias."

On the Middle East, Mr. Mubarak continued to back an international conference.

Last month, in an interview with the Paris newspaper Le Monde, Mr. Mubarak warned the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that unless they accepted U.N. Resolution 242, which recognises the right of Israel to exist, the PLO risked losing any chance of influencing Middle East events.

In his speech Tuesday, however, Mr. Mubarak made no reference to that warning, to which the PLO has not responded. Instead, he emphasised "that the PLO proved its commitment to the principles of international legitimacy when it issued the Cairo declaration on Nov. 7, 1980, clearly discriminating between terrorist acts and resistance to foreign occupation."

He also reiterated that an international Middle East peace conference should be held "without preconditions" and "with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Mubarak was the first Middle Eastern head of state to address the assembly of the Council of Europe, which was created in 1949 and is composed of 170 deputies elected from the parliaments of the Council's member nations. The assembly was to begin a debate on the Middle East and terrorism later Tuesday.

Two of the assembly members most directly concerned by the recent attacks in Europe reacted favourably to Mr. Mubarak's call for an international conference to combat terrorism.

Italian Communist deputy Tullio Vecchiarelli said, "the proposal for a U.N. conference on terrorism is good, but we need European measures because we are the targets of international terrorism."

Wolfgang Bleck, a Christian-Democrat from West Germany, said referring to the terrorism conference proposal, "it was impressive and extremely balanced in its spirit and recommendations."

On Wednesday, Mr. Mubarak flies to Paris to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand. He was to go to Bonn on Thursday.

Rebels reportedly kill 8 Sudanese soldiers

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Antigovernment rebels ambushed a government relief convoy, killing eight soldiers and wounding 22, the newspaper Al Hadaf reported Tuesday.

The paper, organ of the newly legalised Baath Party, said its correspondent interviewed some of the wounded in a hospital at Kadugli, 590 kilometres south west of Khartoum in the Nuba Mountains.

It said the attack by rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) occurred in mid-January as the government troops carried relief supplies and medicine to the nearby town of Fariya and outlying villages.

There has been no government announcement of the ambush, and government officials could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said employment of the government's Petroleum Public Corp. began a three-day strike Tuesday to support demands for better pay and employment conditions.

The stoppage was the latest in a series of job actions that the government has blamed on unscrupulous investigators trying to undermine democracy.

Khartoum airport technicians struck for five days this month, virtually paralysing the facility. The Finance Ministry's economists, administrators and clerks struck for five days last week, demanding housing allowances and other benefits.

U.S. will still bar ties with Aden

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. government has said it would continue to refuse to have any dealings with South Yemen following the takeover of Aden by hardline Marxist rebels.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said: "The United States has no diplomatic relations with the South Yemeni government under President Ali Nasser Mohammad, and we have no intention of recognising or dealing with the rebels, who have apparently taken control over the city of Aden."

The United States has had no diplomatic relations with pro-Soviet South Yemen since 1969. Mr. Kalb Monday voiced U.S. concern over what he said was increasingly evident Soviet support for the rebels, led by Haider Abu Baker Al Attas.

He also said the struggle in South Yemen appeared to be unresolved.

Mr. Kalb expressed the administration's concern that the Soviet Union is apparently taking sides in South Yemen's bitter internal political struggle.

"We are concerned that the Soviet Union, by its increasingly evident support for the rebel group in Aden, including Premier Attas, appears to be taking sides on behalf of one faction in South Yemen's still unresolved internal political struggle," the spokesman declared.

The Soviet News Agency TASS reported in a dispatch from Moscow on Jan. 25 that Attas had returned home and had been made "acting president."

Among the actions Mr. Kalb cited when asked for evidence of Soviet support for the rebel South Yemeni faction were the announcement of the formation of the rebel government while its leader, Premier Attas, was still in Moscow, the return of Attas to South

Yemen on a Soviet plane and the Soviet media's increasing criticism of President Mohammad and its expressions of praise for Attas.

Mr. Kalb noted that he had earlier mentioned discussions with the Soviets about any kind of intervention in South Yemen and said it was under that heading that U.S. concern about Soviet actions could be found.

Meanwhile links between South Yemen and the world are gradually being restored after 12 days of fierce fighting between rival Marxist factions that killed up to 13,000 people and devastated the capital.

A senior Communications Ministry official said the national airline Al Yemda resumed overseas services Monday with a flight to Damascus.

Officials said international telephone links were back to normal and that internal flights would be resumed within two days.

The new leader of South Yemen Monday appealed for international aid to rebuild the capital, Aden. Damage from the fighting is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it had been given permission to send in a nine-member team to assist victims of the fighting.

Mr. Attas, appointed interim head of state on Friday, also pledged to pursue a foreign policy based on non-interference in other countries' affairs and to boost ties with the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and other states in the Arabian peninsula.

The French ambassador to South Yemen, who was among 6,000 foreigners evacuated from Aden during the fighting, said in Paris Monday that the Soviet Union had been taken by surprise by the feud between leaders of its ally.

Ambassador Pierre Aubert said that Moscow had fully supported the policies of ousted President Ali Nasser Mohammad and that its ties with the new leadership remained unclear.

Diplomatic sources in the region said South Yemeni envoys were now expected to tour Arab countries to explain the new leadership's policies.

But voices were still being raised to challenge its authority. A radio-controlled by supporters of Nasser Mohammad described changes in South Yemen as unconstitutional.

The charge came in a statement by 14 members of the Central Committee of the ruling Socialist Party (YSP) who were dismissed by the new leaders, according to the radio.

The committee members denied there had been a plot by the Nasser Mohammad faction to liquidate YSP politicians, as alleged by the new leaders, and added that South Yemen's Supreme People's Council was the only body competent to dismiss them.

An Air India charter flight arrived in Bombay Monday carrying 155 men, women and children from South Yemen.

Airline officials said the passengers included people from India as well as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh who had been living in South Yemen.

In Djibouti India's Ambassador to South Yemen, D.C. Mannars, told United News of India that soldiers belonging to an unidentified faction had ransacked his house in the capital Aden and wounded an Indian servant without provocation.

Mr. Mannars said about 500 Indians had been evacuated from the Aden but at least 2,500 were still believed to be in remote areas.

Civilians die in tit-for-tat Gulf raids

BAHRAIN (R) — At least 30 civilians have been killed in fresh exchanges of bombing between Iran and Iraq in the Gulf war, according to officials in Tehran and Baghdad.

An Iranian communique said Iraq killed two of its border villages Monday killed 24 people and wounded 82. A military spokesman in Baghdad said Iranian jets killed six Iraqis and wounded 21 in the northern town of Sidki.

The Iranian National News Agency IRNA quoted a war communique as saying Iraqi bombers hit Marivan and Rabat, Kurdish settlements close to the northern war front some 480 kilometres west of Tehran.

Iraq had earlier pledged revenge for the two-plane raid on Sidki, which Iran said was actually against a garrison at Rawandiz in Iraqi Kurdistan, five kilometres from the town and 370 kilometres north of Baghdad.

An Iraqi military spokesman said the Sidki dead were four women, a child and an elderly man, and the injured included eight women and nine children. Four houses were destroyed and 10 damaged in the two-plane attack.

Iraq said its planes Monday also attacked a large naval target in the Gulf near the Iranian coast.

Weizman makes no progress in Egypt

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli cabinet minister Ezer Weizman has ended a special mission to Cairo without any immediate sign that frosty relations with Egypt will improve.

The former defence chief Monday met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for 90 minutes but apparently failed to persuade him to set a date for a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"No date or venue has been set," Weizman, the Israeli minister responsible for relations with Egypt, told reporters at Tel Aviv Airport on his return.

"I did emphasise the importance of a meeting between Mubarak and Peres," he said. "I do believe it will happen."

In a rare show of unity, right-wing Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir agreed to Peres' request to dispatch Weizman to Egypt after Cairo voiced reservations over

conditions in a 14-point Israeli cabinet plan to improve bilateral relations.

Peres' cabinet agreed to Egypt's demand to submit the Tabu border dispute to arbitration but said Cairo first must deliver a report on last October's killing in the Sinai of seven Israeli tourists by an Egyptian policeman.

Egypt rejected the condition and said it would agree only to hand over the transcript of the trial of the policeman. He was jailed for life and found hanged in his cell three weeks ago in what authorities said was suicide.

Weizman said on his arrival he would recommend Israel accept and study the transcript and then decide if it wanted more information.

Israeli leaders also made arbitration over Tabu, a tiny Sinai coastal area kept by Israel after it

pulled out of the peninsula in 1982, conditional on normalisation of bilateral relations.

A Peres-Mubarak summit, Israeli officials said, would be an important first step towards thawing the so-called "cold peace." But Egypt has said progress should be made on arranging arbitration before a date is set for a meeting between the two leaders.

"There's a lot of misunderstandings between our two countries," Weizman said.

After two meetings in Cairo between Weizman and President Hosni Mubarak, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid said Monday that delegates from the two nations would meet next week to discuss points related to arbitration on the Tabu enclave, held by Israel and claimed by Egypt. He did not give a date.

Mr. Mubarak, whose country signed a U.S.-brokered peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has stipulated that the summit hinge on progress in arbitration on the Tabu issue.

Weizman declined to disclose the issues he and Mr. Mubarak had dealt with in their meetings, held amid a total news blackout.

"I just came here to get the feeling in the country and meet the president and the foreign minister, and I did," said Weizman, who last met Mr. Mubarak in April last year.

Mr. Abdul Maguid, speaking before a key parliamentary committee last week, welcomed the Israeli move on Tabu but said improved ties hinged on progress in the Palestinian issue.

Britain to maintain arms embargo against Israel

AMMAN (I.T.) — Britain is to continue its arms embargo against Israel despite a request from Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres last week to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe that restrictions be removed, the Jerusalem Post reported on Tuesday.

The government's decision was given to the House of Commons Monday night by the newly appointed Foreign Office minister Lynda Chalker, who said Britain had welcomed Israel's decision to

withdraw from Lebanon but was "disappointed by the residual Israeli presence on Lebanese territory."

The ban on arms sales to Israel, was imposed by the European Community (EC) countries, including Britain, in July 1982 in response to the invasion of Lebanon.

Most other EC countries have since lifted the embargo, and two years ago, Britain relaxed its ban by redefining the nature of military equipment governed by the restrictions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

Exhibitions

* French exhibition entitled "Naissance de l'écriture" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30)

* An exhibition of artificial plants and flowers at the Housing Bank Complex.

VIDEO

* "Mandala: 'Daphne' at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre: Tel. 6610267

American Centre: Tel. 641570

British Council: Tel. 6361478

French Cultural Centre: Tel. 637000

Goethe Institute: Tel. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre: Tel. 642035

Spanish Cultural Centre: Tel. 620409

Turkish Cultural Centre: Tel. 639777

Haya Arts Centre: Tel. 655195

Hassan Youth City: Tel. 6671816

Y.W.C.A.: Tel. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A.: Tel. 662521

American International Library: Tel. 637111

University of Jordan Library: Tel. 843535

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also models from Mevlana and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from inside the Jordanian borders and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum, Jabal Lurebach. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Museum of Military Memorabilia: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

EXHIBITIONS

Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 years old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817334.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lurebach, 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, 661757.

Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678906.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Ghazal, 677334.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Samir), Tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

6:10 — Fajr

6:32 — (Sunrise) Duha

11:49 — Dhuhur

14:45 — 'Asr

17:29 — Maghrib

18:20 — 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport (tel. 08) 53200-3, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:30 — London, Larnaca (BA)

07:50 — Karachi (KU)

08:25 — Kuwait (KU)

08:35 — Dubai, Abu Dhabi (BY)

08:50 — Bahrain (GA)

09:05 — Agaña (RU)

09:15 — Sana'a (Y)

09:45 — Jeddah (RU)

09:55 — Doha, Bahrain (RU)

10:00 — Bahrain (GA)

10:45 — Kuwait (KU)

10:55 — Tripoli, Larnaca (BY)

11:05 — Beirut (ME)

11:30 — Paris, Damascus (AF)

11:35 — Cairo (RU)

17:35 — Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RU)

17:50 — New York, Amsterdam (RU)

17:55 — Amsterdam (BY)

17:55 — London, Paris (RU)

18:00 — Madrid, Geneva (RU)

18:05 — Rome (RU)

18:15 — Beirut (ME)

18:25 — Istanbul (RU)

19:30 — Baghdad (IA)

20:00 — Cairo, Damascus (BY)

20:05 — Frankfurt-Damascus (LEI)

21:15 — Tripoli-Damascus (BY)

08:25 — Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES

06:30 — Istanbul, Amsterdam (KLM)

07:30 — Agaña (RU)

07:50 — Larnaca, London (BA)

08:30 — Athens, Rome (BY)

08:50 — Damascus, Rome (AZ)

10:00 — Damascus, Cairo (BY)

10:05 — Belgrade, London (BY)

10:10 — Jeddah (RU)

10:15 — Larnaca, Zurich (BY)

10:30 — Doha, Dubai, Muscat (GE)

10:35 — Cairo (RU)

10:50 — Kuwait (KU)

10:55 — Larnaca-Tripoli (BY)

11:05 — Jeddah (SA)

11:30 — Sana'a (Y)

11:35 — Kuwait (RU)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— San Baud

— Noble Eagle

Amin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.

Weather

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Medium and high clouds are likely to appear during the day with westerly moderate winds in the Gulf of Aqaba, the winds will be northerly and calm sea.

Cabinet announces increases, exemptions in customs dues

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of primary goods used in industry have been exempted from customs duty and duty on other products will be increased in accordance with a cabinet decision announced Tuesday.

Under the decision, primary items used in the manufacture of biscuits and chocolates, such as powdered eggs and cocoa, and those used in the petrochemical industries and cardboard have been exempted from all duty.

Duty on aluminium wire, caustic soda and other chemicals like polyethylene, resin polyester,

hydrochlorides and basic tri-lead sulphates will have their duty reduced by between one per cent and 14 per cent, according to the decision.

But duty will increase on the following items because similar products are being manufactured locally: Chocolate and biscuits (50 to 70 per cent), canned beans (15 to 30), iron pipes (30 to 50), taps (14 to 25), liquid cell batteries (65 fils for each ampere/hour). Also, the price of imported blankets will rise by 500 fils each and wall-to-wall carpeting will go up by JD 2 per square metre.

Authorities collect JD 275m in customs duties, fees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Customs authorities in Jordan last year collected more than JD 275 million in customs fees, registering an increase of JD 10.5 million over 1984 figures, according to Customs Department Director General Adel Al Qudah.

Mr. Qudah said in a statement, quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper, that more than JD 27 million was collected as duty on locally produced commodities and the rest came from duty charged on imported products. Over the past year, the department collected fees on 16,774 imported vehicles and the Amman customs offices collected JD 72,233,762 in dues on imported cars, according to Mr. Qudah.

He continued that last year, JD 209 million worth of products imported into Jordan were exempted from any customs duty, largely because they were primary goods and other items for industry.

Over the past year, the customs authorities in Jordan registered 10 cases of gold smuggling but the total number of smuggling cases was approximately 15,000, the smuggled items ranging from sheep to cigarettes, he continued. This figure also included 30 cases of drug smuggling and heroin and hashish (108 kilograms) and more than 680,000 Captagon stimulant pills were seized by the authorities. Mr. Qudah concluded.

W. Bank committee requests support for literacy projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A higher committee for the eradication of illiteracy, formed by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in the West Bank, has issued an appeal for funds and moral support to enable the committee to continue its programmes to eradicate illiteracy in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued in Amman on Tuesday to mark the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy and Adult Education, the committee paid tribute to the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and GUVS in Amman for their continued assistance which has

helped the committee implement literacy projects.

The committee said that it has introduced an economic development course in its literacy programme and this course will teach subjects related to agriculture, traditional industries, animal husbandry and topics which are part of the local people's daily life in the occupied lands.

In the statement, the committee also said that it is now running a total of 123 literacy centres in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, offering primary and preparatory education to some 3,512 adults at a cost of JD 115,000 per year.

Man tries to set wife on fire

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 41-year-old man from Mafrq has attempted to kill his wife by pouring kerosene over her and then setting her on fire. The 32-year-old wife has been hospitalised and her condition was described as "very serious," according to a report in the Sawt Al-Shaab Arabic daily newspaper. The report said that the man, identified only as N.K., has been arrested and an investigation was underway.

Also in the Mafrq region, a one and a half-year-old child, Mas'ad al-Habbas Al Qari, died after being accidentally shot by his three-year-old sister. A report in the local press said that the bullet, fired from a hand gun, hit the boy's right thigh. The father, a Saudi

Arabian national, said that it was a tragic accident.

In Amman, a 21-year-old Egyptian national died and three others were injured when a large amount of earth fell into the ditch in which they were working at Wabdat in Amman. The injured workers are being treated at Al Bashir Hospital.

Also according to Sawt Al-Shaab, an oil tanker carrying diesel from the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company to Jerash hit four cars near the Jerash public garden, causing severe damage to the cars and injuring one driver. The accident occurred when the driver of the tanker lost control over his vehicle which was badly damaged.

Oil tanker explodes at refinery

AMMAN (Petra) — An oil tanker caught fire and exploded on Tuesday morning as it was being loaded with petrol at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in Zarqa and the incident resulted in damage but no loss of life. Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Lieutenant General Khaled Al Tarawneh announced Tuesday. He said that the fire broke out at 7:50 a.m. and it took nearly an hour for fire engines to put it out.

As soon as the alarm was raised

fire engines from Zarqa, Awajan and the refinery's fire-fighting team rushed to the scene and fire engines from the local army camp were called in to help control the blaze. Lt-Gen. Tarawneh explained.

He said that the fire was brought under control thanks to the quick response from the fire engines and cooperation on the part of refinery officials and the armed forces whose help was instrumental in extinguishing the fire and minimising the damage.

House near Tafileh hit again as water truck encounters bend

TAFILEH (J.T.) — A water tanker crashed into a house at Al Bahra district in Tafileh, south Jordan, causing damage to the house but no injuries. The truck was badly damaged in the incident, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday.

The report said that the incident occurred because of a sharp bend on a steep road next to the house. On five other occasions, vehicles have crashed into the same house. Local inhabitants were quoted as saying that several pedestrians

had met with accidents on the road, especially at night, and despite warnings against possible accidents they complained that nothing was done.

The report said that several homes in the district are in danger of being damaged because they are located on or near the dangerous stretch of road.

In an interview with the newspaper, Tafleth Mayor Musallam Al Zaghali said that the municipality will build a thick wall in a bid to prevent accidents.

Ministry issues commemorative stamps of Hittin battle

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Communications will issue a commemorative stamp to mark the eighth centennial anniversary of the Hittin battle between the Crusaders and Saladin's armies which took place in 1187 A.D. As the anniversary is not imminent year, the Ministry of Com-

munications has been instructed by the cabinet to contact the Arab Postal Union (APU) to propose that other Arab and Islamic countries issue similar commemorative stamps, the proceeds of which will be used to help bolster the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli rule.



Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai (right) and Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Musasher (second left) Tuesday held talks with Iraqi Minister of Trade and

Light Industry Tareq Hamed Alabdullah (second right) on joint industrial projects (Petra photo)

Jordan, Iraq revive plans for joint industrial company, projects

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai Tuesday met with visiting Iraqi Minister of Light Industries Tareq Hamed A'bdullah for discussions on future projects to be implemented by the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Industries Company.

This is the first time an Iraqi minister of trade industry has visited Jordan since Jordan and Iraq signed a bilateral protocol to expand the volume of trade exchange between the two countries by up to \$750 million during 1986. The bilateral protocol was signed by Mr. Rifai and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan in Amman last December.

During the meeting with Mr. Rifai, which was attended by Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Rajai Musasher, both sides discussed means to further bolster industrial ties between the two countries.

Under the December protocol, Iraq agreed to buy Jordanian eggs, tomato paste, potash and vegetables for pickling, while Jordan will buy Iraqi matches, dates, crude oil and fertilizers.

The joint Jordanian-Iraqi company, whose initial projects were agreed upon by former Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad Al Anazi and his Iraqi counterpart in Baghdad last January, was shelved after a cabinet reshuffle last April.

Projects

The initial projects to be adopted by the company was a tomato paste plant, which would also produce juice concentrates, and another project for producing primary pharmaceutical products and which was planned to be located in Jordan. Two other projects for pickling vegetables and setting up an animal husbandry and breeding farm in Iraq were also approved during the January meeting in

Processing plant

It is not clear whether we shall buy or take over the plant's administration, but our decision aims to market the excess Jordanian tomato paste in Iraq," Mr. Saqqaf said. The plant can process between five to six thousand tonnes of tomatoes per day and Iraq imports between 85 and 90,000 tonnes of tomato paste annually.

Mr. Alabdullah told the Jordan Times that he on Wednesday will visit the Jordan Valley area where the Al Arda tomato processing factory is located.

The joint company's founding capital is JD 20 million to be contributed equally by both sides.

Last January, Ministry of Trade and Industry officials told the Jordan Times that Jordan's participation in the company will be through in-kind donations or by providing the raw materials. But later in October, both sides agreed that Jordan's founding capital will be JD 10 million, setting the Kingdom's contribution on an equal footing with Iraq's outlay. They also decided that the company's general headquarters will be in Baghdad, where as the initial plan was to have Amman as the base for the company's headquarters.

Dr. Musasher and his visiting guest later Tuesday toured the industrial city in Sahla and were briefed on the activities of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation by the corporation's director general Fayez Suhaimat.

Central Bank agreement

In a related development, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Central Bank of Iraq Tuesday signed an agreement for financial and monetary cooperation between the two countries. The agreement, according to Petra, comes in light of the December protocol for further promoting trade and monetary cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. The agreement was signed by Central Bank of Jordan Governor Hussein Qasem and his Iraqi counterpart Hishmat Ibrahim.

Love, hate in Egypt under occupation; Chahin's avant-garde film at the RCC

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Adieu Bonaparte" (farewell Bonaparte), the avant-garde Egyptian film maker Youssef Chahin's 1985 production, will be on show in Amman at the Royal Cultural Centre on Jan. 29 and 30.

Director Chahin is renowned for his internationally-known productions such as "Al Asfour," "Fadousa Masriya," "El Ard" and "Bab Al Hadidi." Through and in his distinguished works, Chahin has developed his own difficult and avant-garde directing style.

Adieu Bonaparte, the film about Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign of 1878 is the first-ever co-production between France and Egypt. The film was selected to be shown at the 1985 Cannes International Film Festival, the first Tokyo international film festival and was screened several times in Washington where it received praise and favourable reviews from cinema critics as well as criticism from film makers and leftists in Egypt. According to many published reviews Adieu Bonaparte is a good example of the "contradictions" which characterise most of Chahin's productions.

In its broad context, Adieu Bonaparte is a historical film about the French invasion of Egypt during the Mamlukes rule and resulting in the Cairo uprising. However, and according to the Egyptian director, the film is an "intimate story about love, a modern story of mutual respect and interaction between two dif-

ferent cultures."

Love story

In several interviews with the press, Chahin explained the main theme of his film and said: "People usually ask you what do you love and with whom are you in love, but never how do you love?" He explained that he had chosen the French campaign in Egypt as a framework for a big love story because he admires the French general Cafarelli's personality and his desire to understand and communicate with the Egyptian people."

The hero Ali, played by Egyptian actor Mohsin Moline, and his brother Yehia became very close friends with the French general Cafarelli played by French actor Michel Piccoli. The relationship between the French general and the two Egyptian brothers develops to become an ambivalent love-hate relationship. Ali and his brother face the impossible task of reconciling their friendship with Cafarelli, Napoleon's close friend and chief engineer. As a result of the two brothers' friendship with the French general, they were considered to be traitors and collaborators by the Egyptian people who even suspected them to be the general's lovers. Ali finds himself obliged to defend his position to both the French and Egyptians alike and especially to his older brother Bakr, a student of theology, who rejects the French as infidel oppressors. Although the film is entitled Adieu Bonaparte, the role of

the French leader in the film is marginal.

A tale of occupation

The Egyptian director, however, is telling the story of the French invasion through the eyes of an Egyptian family devastated by the occupying power. Through Cafarelli's love of the two Egyptian youths, director Youssef Chahin meant to demonstrate how the nation's history develops. The Egyptian director highlighted the teenager Ali as the central character who does his best to learn lessons from the occupying force. He is open-minded and ready to cooperate with the French if such cooperation will lead to achieving progress. However, Ali will rebel if he feels that he is exploited, because he is eager to be a part of his country's history.

Youssef Chahin's 1985 production is a strong and well-made film which clearly reflect the director's technical orientation and individual working concept. Yet, it is important to stress that Chahin's film attachment to the individual aspect does not mean that his films are private. On the contrary, his own deep roots in the Egyptian setting enable him to reflect with penetrating sensitivity the same structure in all human relations and in society too. The Egyptian film maker usually writes his scripts entirely on his own and he depicts issues which are firmly rooted in his personal experience, which often lead his films a rare intensity and psychological credibility.

Jordan, Egypt sign protocol for \$50m investment company

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday formally laid down the ground work for the establishment of a joint investment and development company with a capital of \$50 million to be shared equally by the two countries.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammed Al Saqqaf and Mr. Wihdat Abdul Aziz, under secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, signed a protocol defining the statutes and bylaws for the projected company which is to have a 50-year mandate.

The company will undertake joint investment projects, issue bonds to be marketed in Egypt and Jordan and will market its products in both countries.

According to the protocol, the projected company will have its headquarters in Amman. Its eight-member board of directors will represent both countries and

will function for two years with the company's director to be appointed by Egypt and assisted by a management board which is to meet every two months.

According to the statute, the minister of industry and trade in Jordan and the minister of planning and international cooperation of Egypt should supervise the general assembly meetings of the company. Also, the general assembly should take the necessary steps for bringing the company into being.

Under the provisions of the protocol, the general assembly will have to meet annually to discuss the company's activities and financial position and other matters

concerning the distribution of dividends and endorsing new projects. But extraordinary meetings could take place when the situation requires.

At the signing ceremony Mr. Saqqaf expressed satisfaction with Jordanian-Egyptian economic and trade cooperation and said that Jordan will benefit through its cooperation with Egypt in implementing its economic projects. Mr. Abdul Aziz said that Egypt was concerned with setting up this company because it will boost bilateral cooperation.

The projected company, he said, will first set up a fishing company with a \$10 million capital, shared equally by the two sides. Mr. Aziz continued that the company, which will be based in Alexandria in Egypt, will help both countries attain self-sufficiency in salt water fish and will not compete with the existing fishing industries in both countries.

Fayez, Soviet envoy discuss year of world peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fuyez Tuesday voiced Jordan's support for all initiatives designed to serve the cause of world peace in general and Middle East peace in particular. Mr. Fayez was speaking during a meeting with Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk with whom he discussed the United Nations decision to observe 1986 as a year for world peace.

Mr. Fayez said that there can be no real peace in the region without a total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The house speaker also referred to the idea of an international conference which Jordan has called for to find a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that the superpowers should participate in this conference and take steps to ensure security and stability in the region.

Mr. Zinchuk referred to the 1986 year for world peace and said Moscow, backs the declaration and also supports proposals for ending the nuclear arms race.

Officials brief ILO team on Israeli malpractices

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), currently on a fact-finding mission in the Middle East, Tuesday met with Jordanian officials and were briefed on Israel's malpractices against Arab workers and violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories.

The team, which earlier visited Syria on a similar mission, first met with Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan who spoke about Israel's colonialist policy in the occupied Arab lands and the adverse effects of this policy on the social, economic and working conditions of the Arab population under Israeli rule.

Israel, he said, is going ahead with plans to remove Palestinian Arabs from their homeland in flagrant defiance of all international principles and laws. He said that the Israeli authorities have been taking arbitrary measures against Arab workers and their unions and have been forcing young Arabs to work in Israeli economic institutions.

At the same time, Israel continues to build settlements in Arab lands, confiscate Arab property, evict the indigenous population

and control water resources making it impossible for the Arab population to live in their homeland, the minister pointed out.

Mr. Haj Hassan also spoke about Israel's recent violations of the sanctity of the holy shrines at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

He urged the mission to help to improve the conditions of the Palestinian workers in the occupied territories and to regain their legitimate rights.

The mission members were presented with a full written report on the condition of Arab workers and statistics about Israeli violations, the number of settlements and colonies and other measures designed to uproot the Palestinian people from their homeland.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs and the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade as well as the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions.

Mr. Fayez Jaber, chairman of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs, submitted a report on Israel's attempts to dominate the Arab region economically, and to build settlements and confiscate Arab property.

Jordan, PLO continuing talks on peace process

(Continued from page 1)

"On the former, while our objective in this phase of the Middle East peace process remains direct negotiations, we have said we would be working with the parties to achieve an international context that meets the political needs of those involved," the spokesman explained.

"In our view such a context — by whatever name — must lead promptly to direct negotiations and must not be able to impose its

will on the negotiating parties."

"We have also consistently stated that Palestinians must be involved at every stage in the peace process, since the Palestinian people's stake in a peace process is basic. Jordan and Israel agree," he said.

Kalb said that during Mr. Murphy's talks last week, "intensive efforts were exerted" to resolve the question of the international context and the nature of Palestinian participation.

"Very specific ideas were explored and progress was made," the spokesman said. "We have unfavourably pointed out that we are engaged in a process in which progress — while it is being achieved — will be incremental and no major breakthroughs should be expected, although we continue to move in the right direction."

Palestinian officials here said that the King has conveyed to the PLO the latest American stance on the peace process and the PLO. But one of them said that "we do not see any substantial change in the American position vis-a-vis the Palestinians. There still is a big gap between the American and Palestinian positions."

A senior PLO official told the Jordan Times on Tuesday that the organisation has kept the Soviet Union informed on what is going on.

"We always keep our friends the Soviets informed of the latest developments regarding the Palestinian cause," the official said. Earlier on Tuesday Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali hosted a lunch at Al Hussein Sports City in honour of Mr. Arafat. The lunch was attended by senior Jordanian officials, members of the PLO delegation accompanying Mr. Arafat and foreign and Arab ambassadors.

Tuesday's talks were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Mr. Majali, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, the head of Intelligence Department, Tareq Allaeddin and Royal Court Secretary General Rajai Al Dajani.

The Palestinian side included PLO Executive Committee members Abdul Rahim Ahmad, Abdul Razaq Al Yahya, Mahmoud Abbas and Fateh Central Committee members Salah Khalaf and Hani Al Hassan.

U.S. ships steam to edge of Sirte

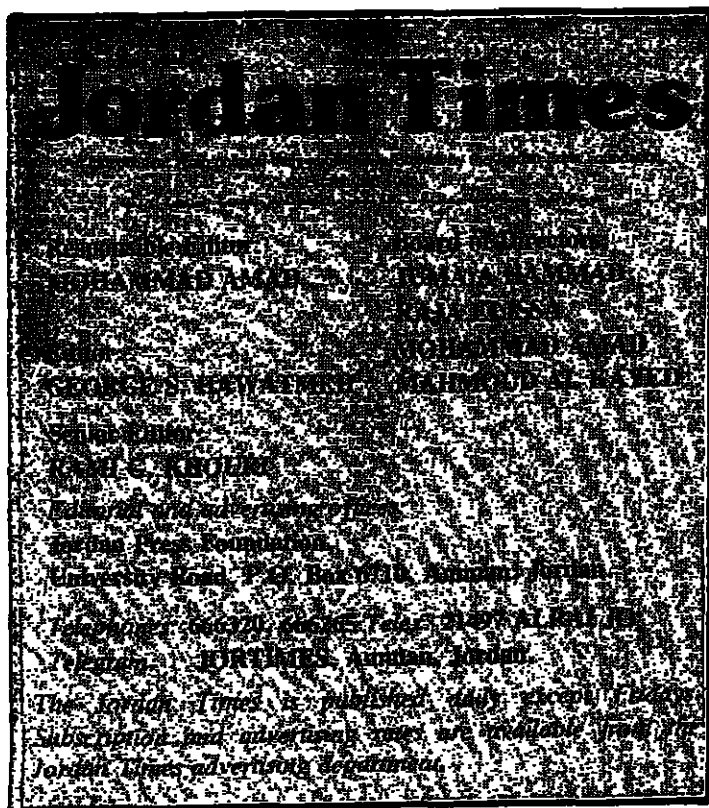
(Continued from page 1)

other Arab governments "not to commit extremist acts in European countries."

In return Col. Qadhafi wanted a pledge from the United States not to take any military action against Libya, Mr. Craxi quoted Mr. Mif-

sud Bonnici's letter as saying.

Pakistan, normally a strong supporter of the United States, said on Tuesday it would oppose any foreign military threat to Libya and would view such an action as a threat to all Islamic nations.



Soul searching is required

TOP level Jordanian-Palestinian talks were continuing yesterday, with no sign of an impending breakthrough that could nudge the Middle East peace process forward.

The "breakthrough" that many of us might have expected or sought from these talks might still materialise, but the likelihood is that, whatever it is, it will not be the magic wand that will solve the Palestinian problem all of a sudden. This is a complex problem whose solution requires a process, as the Americans always insist, and in this process only incremental progress can be achieved. The theory may be wrong. Unfortunately though it has become valid.

We have not always liked the way the U.S. used the terms "process" and "incremental progress" when used in conjunction with peace efforts Middle Eastern. But let us this time do to the Americans what they usually do unto us. Let us make enough progress to throw the ball back into their court and see what they will do with it, how they will play it. The Jordan-PLO accord has been, as far as we and most countries of the world are concerned, a breakthrough. What and how, other than incremental progress, did they view it? And then we have to ask ourselves whether we are truly ready for more breakthroughs for the Americans?

We all agree that time is of the essence. Not only for us, but also for the Israelis and for the Americans and for the cause of peace in this area and the whole world generally. We must not for a moment sit on our laurels, and we must not spare an effort to solve the Palestinian problem, because inaction and hesitation are our biggest enemy. But, at the same time, the U.S. and Israel have as much responsibility and moral duty to bear for the cause of Arab-Israeli peace and coexistence. American and Israeli leaders have got to realise that for a just and lasting settlement to be possible they too would have to open their side of the street. In effect, they have to be more realistic and forthcoming on the host of issues that has so far blocked real progress in the Middle East.

Well, if Israel and the U.S. do not know about the time and effort that this country and its leadership have spent trying to improve the chances of peace, then they should take another look at what is happening; perhaps they will then reassess their positions. If they still harbour a doubt about our genuine commitment to lasting peace and coexistence, let them do a little bit of soul searching and ask the world around them. In the end everybody will discover the truth: We hope it will not be too late by the time the Americans and Israelis have done it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Persuing lasting peace

THE current Jordanian-Palestinian talks are a follow up to the accord signed in Amman on Feb. 11, 1985 and constitute an attempt to coordinate both sides policies towards an honourable settlement for the Middle East crisis. There is no doubt that the cordial atmosphere which characterises the current talks will lead to fruitful results and ensure the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Both sides have on more than one occasion reiterated their adherence to the joint accord because they both believe it will ensure a just and durable settlement for the issue. The talks which the two sides are holding now come at a crucial moment and are designed to prevent the Israeli enemy from carrying out more plots against our people in the occupied Arab territories. Needless to say that such talks and such coordination are required at the highest level if the peace efforts are to continue and gain momentum. The two sides have displayed keenness on reaching peace and it is up to the other parties in the conflict to follow suit and seek the establishment of stability, security and lasting peace.

Al Dustour: Deciding on the future

THE current Jordanian-Palestinian talks are being followed with great care and watched carefully by other parties to the Middle East conflict and other world powers because they are significant and could lead to results that would be crucial for the future of peace efforts. The outcome of these talks by two essential parties is bound to have its far-reaching impact on the future of the region. It should be emphasised, however, that both sides are basing their talks and deliberations on the Feb. 11 accord which was drawn up in order to coordinate their efforts for a settlement. Both sides are agreed on the need to convene an international conference to reach that settlement and to reach lasting peace, and both sides are agreed that the Palestinians should be given their full right to self-determination on their soil. Looking back over the past months we notice that these views and the Feb. 11 accord have drawn encouraging response from the world community. Therefore, we hope that the two sides now involved in serious negotiations would be able to come up with practical steps to give their joint endeavours further momentum.

Sawt Al Shaab: The desire for peace

THE Jordanians and the Palestinians now holding meetings in Amman are no doubt basing their approach to a settlement on the projected international conference. They are also backed in their endeavours by Arab support and by nations which have accepted the Feb. 11 accord as a base for reaching a settlement. These talks reflect the desire on the part of both the Palestinians and the Jordanians to reach a peaceful settlement which would guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Coming at this crucial moment, these talks are designed to develop the Feb. 11 accord and give joint endeavours further impetus and more momentum towards the aspired goals. It is important to emphasise that both sides are determined to include the representatives of the Palestinian people in any future negotiations for peace, contrary to what Israel and its allies advocate. It is also important for both sides to adhere to their principles and their serious efforts because they are bound to achieve fruitful results.

Israeli pressure on U.S. opens door to Soviet arms sales in Gulf

By Rory Channing
Reuters

KUWAIT — Moscow, seizing on a U.S. snub to a Kuwaiti arms request in 1984, is wooing the emirate with big weapons sales and firm assurances of reliable supplies.

Diplomats say the courtship is being closely watched by Kuwait's neighbour Saudi Arabia and its other allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Like Kuwait, they risk being humiliated by a powerful pro-Israel lobby in any bid to buy U.S. arms to combat the threat of a spillover of the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

A dozen congressmen this month started a campaign to block a new \$1 billion arms package to Saudi Arabia even before it has been formally proposed by President Reagan.

Kuwait has had diplomatic relations with Moscow for over 20 years, and first bought Soviet arms

in 1977. Until late last year when Oman and the UAE agreed to full ties with the Kremlin, the rest of the GCC leaned unerringly towards Washington and their arsenals contain only Western arms.

But, says one diplomat, "Moscow is flaunting its open-door sales policy on their doorstep, showing how it courted Kuwait round the Israeli boycott. This won't escape their notice."

The U.S. still ranks as Kuwait's top arms supplier, with contracts for arms and training estimated at well over \$1 billion since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

But Moscow has upstaged Washington since the U.S. turned down a request by Kuwait in 1984 for Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to protect oilfields and other installations, after attacks on Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf blamed on Iran.

Washington approved an \$82 million deal to upgrade Kuwait's 10-year-old U.S.-made Hawk air defences, but withheld the

shoulder-fired Stingers due to Israeli fears they could fall into the hands of anti-Israeli hands.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, visiting Moscow soon afterwards, wasted no time in arranging an arms accord said by newspapers here to be worth \$325 million.

U.S. officials said a big Soviet military sale to Kuwait could be destabilising, and voiced concern over any move that might tilt the traditional balance of the country's supplies.

But Kuwait, which already had Soviet ground-to-ground Frog missiles and surface-to-air SAM-7s, went ahead with the deal which added improved SAM-7s, low-altitude SAM-8s and hand-held 'Strella-2' missiles.

The deal also allowed Soviet military advisers to work in Kuwait for the first time.

Washington sought to play down the presence of American and Soviet military personnel in Kuwait at the same time, amid

some concern at home that its technology could be compromised.

It pointed to precedents in Jordan, Peru and North Yemen, where security personnel from both superpowers had been engaged in simultaneous training activities.

But only a week after Sheikh Salem's visit to Moscow, the Pentagon ran into House of Representatives opposition to a planned \$78 million training course for 150 Kuwaiti pilots.

The administration described the deal, eventually approved, as routine. Opponents, noting Kuwait had only 30 U.S.-made warplanes — A-4KU Skyhawk fighter-bombers — questioned it on grounds it implied a future U.S. aircraft sale to the emirate.

Military analysts say the U.S., when it refused to supply Stingers, offered to upgrade Kuwait's early warning system to blunt the threat of air raids by Iran, whose nearest base is only a few minutes flying-time away.

Diplomats believe it offered to meet rapid-alert data from U.S.-made AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control) planes supplied to Saudi Arabia directly with Kuwait's Hawk missile control.

But, they say, there appears to have been no such link-up yet, fueling speculation Kuwait may have spurned the offer.

In a move which further enhanced the Kremlin's image here, Soviet Deputy Defence Minister General Vladimir Govorov paid a six-day visit this month at the head of the highest-ranking military mission yet sent to Kuwait by Moscow.

Chief of Staff General Abdullah Al Ghanim said no new arms deal had been signed. But the Kuwait News Agency quoted him as saying Moscow "was ready to respond to any request."

Diplomats said Govorov's trip sustained Moscow's strong diplomatic offensive in the Gulf last year and may signal a push to break into Gulf Arab arms mar-

kets long shut to it.

The GCC states are among the world's biggest arms buyers but Kuwait apart, rely on British, French and U.S. armaments.

Saudi Arabia remains beyond the reach of the Kremlin's diplomatic and arms sales drive for while, having stressed that an rapprochement hinges on a change in attitude by Moscow to Islamic causes, and apparently Afghanistan in particular.

Some diplomats in the region say, however, that the UAE and Oman would not have established diplomatic relations with Moscow if Riyadh had not given its blessing.

Diplomats said although Gulf Arab states are well cushioned against slumping oil prices, budgets are tighter and could be crucial to future arms deals. "Western contractors need to turn profit. Moscow, if it places priority on boosting its influence, may offer the cheapest deals," said one.

Uganda poised for extended civil war

By James Newcombe
Reuters

NAIROBI — Guerrillas of the National Resistance Army (NRA) have captured the Ugandan capital Kampala, boosting the prestige of their leader Yoweri Museveni but setting him tough new problems, according to political analysts.

Museveni's men have held a large area of south-west Uganda, bordering Zaire, Rwanda and Tanzania, for months and the NRA has set up its own administrative machinery there.

But the extension of the NRA-controlled area eastwards to Kampala, while apparently putting Museveni in control of the country, in fact leaves the government of General Tito Okello strongly placed to make life difficult if not impossible for him, the analysts say.

Uganda is landlocked. Its main outlet to the sea, through Kenya, is still controlled by Okello's troops who pulled out of Kampala when the NRA attacked and are now reported grouped at Jinja, 80 km to the east on the only road and rail route from Kampala to the sea.

Kampala's electricity comes from the Owen Falls power station at the source of the Nile at Jinja. Okello's men can easily cut the supply to Kampala, and to the entire western half of Uganda which draws its electricity from the same source.

Ugandan rebel leader emerges on top

By David Crary
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Ugandan rebel leader Yoweri Museveni says his men had only 27 rifles when they went into the bush five years ago to wage civil war.

This weekend, the now well-armed National Resistance Army captured Uganda's capital Kampala and vowed to take the third of the country still held by the teetering military regime.

The stunning eight-day final offensive makes Museveni, who describes himself as "an intellectual, not a soldier," Uganda's most powerful leader.

Little is known about what kind of government might be formed by this balding, articulate, animated commander, who seems as comfortable at a news conference as he does with his troops in the field.

Even his biography raises unanswered questions. He doesn't know how old he is, or even the year he was born, because his parents were illiterate and no one else kept records.

"I was born when African ex-soldiers of World War II were returning home," he told an interviewer from Nairobi's Sunday Times in November. "So from there one could deduce I was born in either 1944 or 1945."

Some Western diplomats in Kampala, during briefings given on condition they not be identified, have suggested that a Museveni government might have totalitarian or Marxist overtones.

One diplomat said the interim government established by Museveni in southwest Uganda during the civil war included such posts as "political commissar" and "minister for mass mobilisation."

Other diplomats said Museveni had sought, reportedly without success, to get arms from Libya.

But Museveni, when asked if he is Marxist or Socialist, replied that he is a nationalist dedicated to peace.

"Our main stand in ideological terms is nationalism, patriotism, love for country, Uganda and Africa in general," he said in the November interview.

"We don't think that what Uganda needs is Marxism," he said. "What Uganda needs is development, even on a capitalistic basis, if it benefits our people."

Kampala's water supply from Lake Victoria is pumped into the city by electricity.

Both electricity and water supplies are already failing in the capital according to diplomats on the spot.

Telephone links with neighbouring Kenya use a chain of microwave radio stations on hilltops. With all telephone and telex links with Kampala now cut there is speculation at least one of the stations has been destroyed or damaged.

Uganda's oil supplies are imported from the Kenyan oil refinery at Mombasa, on the Indian Ocean coast. In theory, it would be possible for Kampala to obtain some supplies by road through Tanzania, over roads which circle Lake Victoria and do not pass through the area of eastern Uganda held by the ruling military council.

But this would involve an additional journey of more than 1,500 km and Museveni could get supplies this way only with the approval of Kenya and Tanzania.

The heavy fighting in Kampala last week also raises the question of whether the NRA, which says its arms supplies are captured from the Ugandan army, may be running out of ammunition, the political analysts say.

Military experts say the NRA must have used a substantial quantity of ammunition in the fighting.

While he assailed the military government for failing to halt atrocities by its troops, Museveni's rebels were credited with maintaining tight discipline and treating civilians well.

The people "must have a government that respects them," he told the paper. "In Uganda you have soldiers of the regimes there stripping women naked, raping them. That's not dignity for the African people. That's indignity."

Some of Museveni's detractors describe him as intensely ambitious. A hint of that trait surfaced at a news conference last month in Nairobi when he denied that his foremost goal was to rule Uganda, then added: "That wouldn't be the worst thing that could happen."

Even during a ceremony Dec. 17 in Nairobi, when Museveni signed a short-lived peace agreement with the military government, he maintained an aggressive tone. In his speech he accused the government of atrocities and said: "If you want peace, we are serious partners. If you want trouble, we are serious opponents."

Thereafter, the NRA did little to help implement the agreement and said the pact was doomed as long as government troops continued molesting civilians.

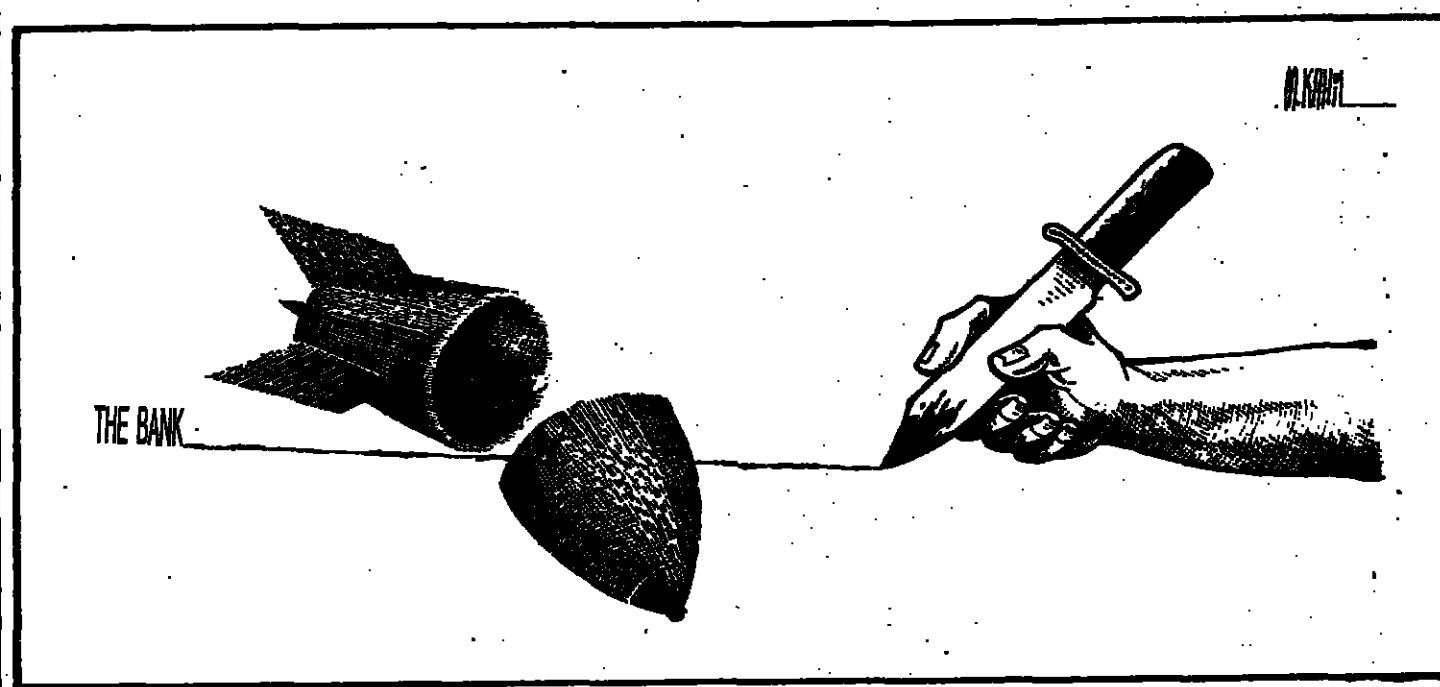
Museveni was born near the town of Mbarara in southwest Uganda, the area which became the NRA's stronghold during the civil war.

He attended the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania, studying political science and economics, and in 1970 went to work as a researcher for the Ugandan president's office.

But in 1971 Idi Amin seized power, starting a brutal eight-year dictatorship. Museveni joined Ugandan exiles in Tanzania seeking to overthrow Amin and became one of their top military leaders.

After the exiles, with help from Tanzanian soldiers, ousted Amin in 1979, Museveni served as defence minister in one of the succeeding interim governments.

But by then his rivalry with President Milton Obote was intensifying. When Obote was returned to the presidency in a 1980 election, Museveni was among many Obote rivals to claim fraud, and in early 1981 he decided to go back to the bush.



Militant and moderate Sikhs face off in Punjab

By Moses Manoharan
Reuters

AMRITSAR, India — Militant Sikh separatists are challenging moderate leaders for control of the sect's religious affairs, threatening a fragile peace in India's volatile northwest Punjab state.

The battle for the hearts and souls of India's 14 million Sikhs has ramifications beyond the Punjab. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has staked much prestige on a peace accord with the moderate Sikh leadership last July.

Separatist and regional movements in other parts of the country are watching how the state and central governments will deal with the Sikh hardliners.

Nearly 20,000 Sikhs, waving swords and shouting separatist slogans, gathered here at their holiest shrine, the Golden Temple on Jan. 26, to approve the replacement of moderate officials with more militant ones.

The "Sarbat Khalsa," or congregational assembly, called by

the All-India Sikh Student Federation (AISSF) and other militant groups also denounced the Punjab peace.

Moderate Sikh leaders questioned the authority of the assembly but the hardliners had for the moment gained control of the temple complex for the first time since June 1984 when the temple was stormed by the army to flush out extremists.

"That traumatic event led eventually to the October 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for which three Sikhs have been sentenced to hang, and the July 1985 peace pact between Gandhi and the moderate Akali Dal Party."

"We are heading for a civil war among the Sikhs," Dalbir Singh, a leading Sikh educator, told Reuters.

"At the moment the religious leadership of the Sikh people is in the hands of the AISSF and the moderates must act before our community is plunged into a bloody confrontation," he said.

The militants bested moderates in winning control of rebuilding a temple building damaged in the army assault that killed 1,000, a project that began on Jan. 26.

And they have resurrected the ghost of Jarnal Singh Bhindrawale, the fiery separatist leader who was killed in the assault on the temple.

AISSF convenor Harinder Singh Kahlon told Reuters the power of Sikh youth would transform the Sikh religion and Punjab politics.

"It is good to have new blood and we will follow the example of our spiritual mentor, Sant (saint) Bhindrawale in using this force to break the chains of slavery which bind the Sikh people," Kahlon said.

Kahlon said the 70,000-strong AISSF would begin peaceful protests across the state against what he termed New Delhi's discrimination against the Sikhs.

That was, by implication, a direct challenge to the Akali Dal state government of Chief Min-

ister Surjit Singh Barnala who came to power in the September elections that followed the signing of the peace accord.

That accord ended a three-year campaign for greater autonomy for Sikh-dominated Punjab.

But Dalbir Singh said Barnala's moderate government could not now ignore the challenge of militant youths even though "thoughtful still enjoyed the tupperware of the Sikh silent majority."

He said the moderate leadership's refusal to meet the challenge would be viewed as an abdication of responsibility.

"The youths have staged a coup by capturing control of the Golden Temple complex and now their eyes are towards Assam where young men like them came power," he said, recalling that Assam elections were a youth government has come to power skillfully playing on regional communal issues.

Dalbir Singh added: "In Punjab, those who control religion, control politics."

Reagan faces tough fight to win contra military aid

By Robert Parry
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Ronald Reagan faces a tough but winnable battle to resume military aid to guerrillas fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government, according to an Associated Press survey of key votes in Congress.

In the Democratic-controlled House, where the main legislative battle will be fought, only a few swing congressmen said they were leaning toward voting with Reagan on lethal military aid, but that could be enough, considering the 64-vote majority the president gained for non-lethal aid last year.

Democrats, however, note that Reagan's expected proposal for \$100 million in military and logistical aid will go to a Congress doubtful about his Nicaraguan policy and grappling with painful spending cuts mandated by the Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Act.

"There's a lot of skepticism up here about (the lethal aid), and when you factor in the (budget cuts), I'd have to say now that I don't think they have the votes," said Rep. Dante Fascell, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Fascell sided with Reagan on non-lethal aid last year but lists himself as undecided on lethal aid.

An AP survey of 33 swing votes from last year's congressional battles over aid to the Contras found 13 "against or leaning against" Reagan's lethal aid plan, 17 undecided or not available and three "leaning for."

But since Reagan had a 64-vote victory margin on the non-lethal aid vote last June, the Democrats must win back nearly all the swing votes or persuade other House members who normally back the President to switch.

Many of those swing votes, who supported Reagan's request for \$27 million in non-lethal "humanitarian" aid to the Contras, say the president cannot count on their support for open military aid.

"It's one thing to give economic aid," said Rep. Tommy Robinson. "It's another to give lethal aid."

Robinson said open military aid would commit the United States so strongly to the Contras that if they still could not defeat the Sandinista army, "the next request will be for American troops... I don't want my boys or anyone else's boy fighting down in Nicaragua."

Rep. Dave McCurdy urged Reagan to explore a revived peace initiative by Latin American governments before pushing for new military aid.

"There are some options that need to be tried out," said McCurdy, an influential member of the House Intelligence Committee.

"If the president requests military aid, he has shown to me he was not sincere when he asked me to support him (on non-lethal aid) to help the peace process," said Rep. Bill Richardson. "It shows he wants to overthrow the Sandinistas."

"As long as it's non-lethal, alright," said Rep. Stewart McKinney. "As far as lethal is concerned, no."

Reagan partisans say that if the president can present the military aid request as part of a strategy for forcing the Nicaraguan government to negotiate seriously with the opposition, Congress might well support him.

They cite also the strong congressional distaste for Nicaragua's close military ties to Soviet Union and Cuba, and the Sandinistas' crackdown on internal dissent.

"All of the trends have been negative for a diplomatic solution and the behaviour of the San-

dinista regime," said Ed Zschau, who says he is leaning in favour of a military aid request.

Although the CIA provided the Contras with an estimated \$80 million in covert military aid from 1981-84, the new aid request would be the first open military assistance that the United States has provided the insurgents.

The vote, likely in February, will be the first major test of the

so-called Reagan doctrine of strong U.S. backing of anti-Communist forces fighting leftist regimes.

The 33 House members surveyed were the swing votes last year when the House went narrowly defeating Reagan's non-lethal aid request, 215-211, in April to passing non-lethal aid, 248-284, in June.

LETTERS

Profiteers not prophets

To the Editor

OVER the last two years, a lot has been said and written about travel and tourist agents in this country. Some is sadly true, but some is unfair, misleading and, in some cases, even libelous.

The recent regulations introduced by the Tourism Authority are certainly very welcome and will no doubt help to raise the standard of this profession. But I feel that it is absolutely essential that one tries to define what a travel agent is, what his role in the community is, etc. What this particular industry is undergoing is not unlike what other sectors of the economy is experiencing.

True, many travel agents in Jordan were attracted by the easy money that one could make by selling transportation to the huge number of labourers travelling to and from Iraq.

True, many travel agents were attracted by the glamour one associates with this profession.

True, many travel agents — in the words of Mr. Kurdi (your issue of January 22) — have profit (dirty word?) as their ultimate goal.

True, some, indeed very very few, can be called unscrupulous. But, Mr. Editor, please sit back in your chair, and, instead of "travel agent," put businessman, contractor, manufacturer, etc. The list can go on and on. What I am trying to say is that travel agents are no different to others in this society. There are the good ones, and there are the bad ones.

I congratulate the Tourism Authority on the new regulations they will be implementing, and I hope that this industry will finally be brought up to the level it is in developed countries.

Mr. Claude De La Plante
Amman

مكتبة الأناضول

India marks enormous growth in electronics industry

Dr. M.S. Sanjeevi Rao

The electronics industry in India has shown a spectacular growth to meet the increasing demands of sophistication in tele-communication and information dispersal. Huge investment have been made in the production of items like television sets, tape recorders, computers etc. New areas are also tackled to meet the demand for data communication and tele-matics that provide access to a variety of information sources.

THE Indian electronics industry has registered a growth rate higher than the average growth rate of the Gross National Product (GNP) or that of the overall industrial growth. As compared to the economic growth of about five per cent during 1980-85, the electronics industry grew at an average annual rate of 28 per cent. The growth during 1984 was even higher 37 per cent over 1983.

Encouraged by the consistently increasing growth rate, an ambitious plan for the next five years (1986-90) has been drawn up by the Department of Electronics. The salient features of this plan include achieving near self-sufficiency in semi-conductor technology, School computer programmes, easier interchange of voice and data in communication and the coverage of entire country through a network of television and radio.

The largest annual growth, so far, of consumer electronics in the country was achieved last year. Its production increased from 3.3 billion rupees in 1983 to 5.89 billion in 1984, registering a growth of nearly 78 per cent.

Liberal approvals/letters of intent are being given to manufacture black and white and colour TV sets. Out of about 1000 industrial approvals issued for colour TV, 250 have been issued in the first half of 1985. As against 40 units reported for production during last year, there are now 75 units producing colour TV sets.

The production of colour TV sets also increased substantially from sets in 1983 to nearly 300,000 sets in 1984. The production of black and white TV sets increased from over 650,000 sets in 1983 to nearly one million sets in 1984. The estimated production during the first half of 1985 of colour TV sets is 220,000 and of black and white TV sets about 700,000. Existing established capacities for black and white TV picture tubes is 1.8 million and additional capacity for

which effective steps have been taken is about two million.

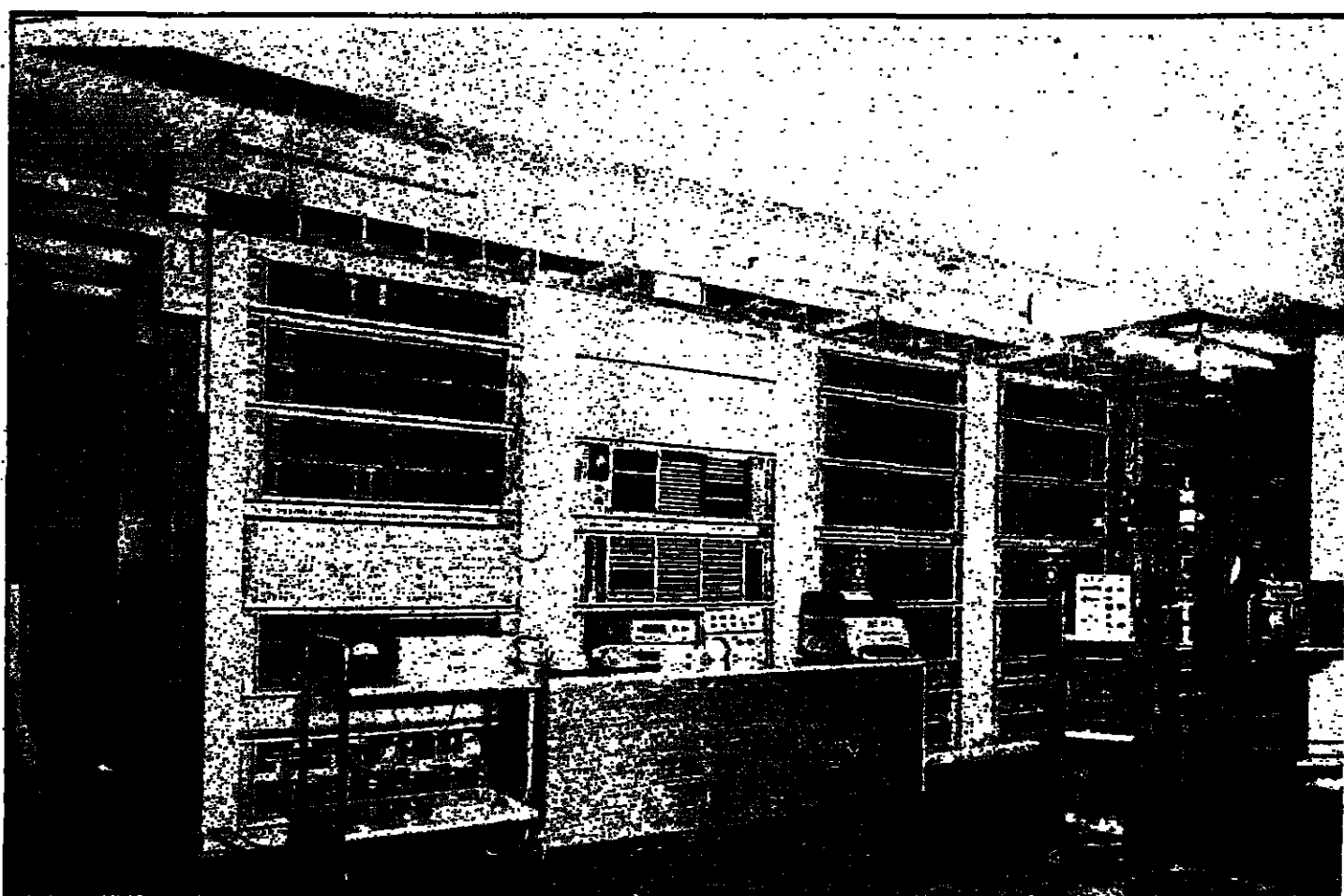
Production of tape recorders and other related items has also started picking up. About 10 industrial approvals have been issued for the manufacture of projection television sets in the first half of 1985. Thirty approvals have been given to small scale entrepreneurs for manufacture of electronic toys and games and digital watches in the last six months.

Massive investment

Electronic components industry has grown from the level of 390 million rupees in 1971 to 1.17 billion rupees in 1973, representing a three-fold increase in seven years. In 1984, the output of this industry was three billion.

Major investments in the next six months are likely to crystallise in the area of glass shells, black and white picture tubes, colour picture tubes and magnetic media. While negotiations are in an advanced stage for foreign collaboration for the manufacture of a second glass shell plant, two memoranda of understanding have been signed for the manufacture of colour picture tubes with leading technology vendors. In addition, a major project to manufacture a comprehensive range of magnetic media including audio, video and computer tapes is likely to be established by the first half of 1987. The likely investment as a result of these projects is expected to be around three to four billion rupees.

In the area of integrated circuits, the established capacity is 450,000 which is projected to increase to 13.5 million by the end of the seventh plan. Similarly, for small signal devices, present established capacity is 21 crore and capacity in pipeline at advanced stage is nearly 360 million. Additional capacity is also being built in the area of capacitors to the tune of 450 million.



Experimental programme-controlled electronic telephone exchange developed by Telecommunications Research Centre, New Delhi.

For encouraging private sector participation in certain areas the private sector have been given letters of intent to manufacture electronic telephone exchanges. Similar arrangement have been finalised for the manufacture of electronic telephone instruments and as many as 36 industrial approvals have been issued to private sector for this purpose.

To encourage indigenous research and development a Centre for development of telematics is developing an electronic switching system to suit the requirements of our country. A working model will be put into operation shortly and all future switching system would be built around this system.

Along with increasing demand for telecommunication services, there is growing demand for data communication and telematics which provide access to a variety of information sources. New programmes initiated in the last six months include satellite based

data network and broadcast teletext. The proposal for satellite based network envisages use of roof-top or on-campus earth station located at used premises to provide reliable data communication.

Broadcast teletext system would enable people to get information on services such as train and airline arrival and departure timing, weather and financial information, sports and cultural events etc. Any television receiver would be able to retrieve pages of this information with low cost decoder. The first phase of this project is being implemented in Delhi.

Recognising the importance of computers in socio-economic development, the department of electronics is installing four super computers for compiling and creating data bases on the socio-economic activities in the country. It is also providing a system by which the data collecting agencies

will not only provide information but also have a mechanism of interacting with the system to monitor economic progress of the region.

For encouraging indigenous manufacture of computers, a new rationalised computer policy providing a number of incentives has been announced. This has resulted in an increasing flow of applications for investment (three billion rupees during the last three months) for the manufacture of computer and computer related products. Simultaneously, there has been a reduction in computer prices to the extent of 40-50 per cent.

Encouraging exports

India is also engaged in the exports of electronic items. The exports started in a small way in the early 60s. They were 420 million rupees in 1980 and went up to 1.4

billion in 1984. To further increase electronics exports, 40 letters of intent/licenses have been issued for setting up export oriented units in 100 per cent export oriented unit scheme, Santa Cruz Electronic Export Processing Zone, Madras Export Processing Zone, Kandla Free Trade Zone and Fata Export Processing Zone in the last six months.

A country-wide network of testing, calibration and development assistance facilities has been set up. A total of 15 Electronics Test and Development Centres (ETDCs) are functioning in various states. Four Electronics Regional Test Laboratories (ERTLs) have been established under this programme.

It will thus be seen that during the last few months, under the dynamic leadership of the prime minister the electronics industry has been given a large push to the seventh five year plan.

Financial crimes hit Swiss canton banks

By Peter Conrad
Reuter

LUGANO, Switzerland — A rapid transformation from sleepy farming backwater to thriving banking centre has brought prosperity to the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino, but with it an unwelcome role in the world of financial crime.

In just thirty years, jobs in the financial sector have grown tenfold, giving the picturesque lakeside town of Lugano more banks and lawyers per head than anywhere in Switzerland.

But as office blocks have sprung up alongside the hotels and holiday homes, the traditional cigarette smuggling over the border to Italy has given way to a string of more sophisticated economic swindles, pushing this canton of less than a third of a million onto the international stage.

The 1970s brought a catalogue of crimes ranging from fraudulent dealings by bank employees to swindles by crooked finance companies, brokers and trading firms. Many were small scale, but the amounts involved in the largest cases were staggering.

Fraudulent activities by a Credit Suisse branch manager in nearby Chiasso were estimated to have cost the bank more than 1.38 billion francs (\$670 million) when the "Chiasso affair" came to light in 1977, while other cases have involved sums well into the hundreds of millions.

For Paolo Bernasconi, recently retired after 17 years as the local public prosecutor, the region's problems do not fundamentally differ from those any other financial centre. But he admits a number of factors make things worse here.

"The very rapid growth in the concentration of banks over the last 20 years means there is a lack of banking tradition of the sort seen in Zurich, Basle or Geneva," he told Reuters in an interview.

The many foreigners who break their own countries' currency and tax laws to entrust their savings to the mass of Ticino-based fiduciary agents are also unlikely to go running to the authorities if the agents defraud them.

However, Ticino's location — within easy reach of the "golden triangle" of Milan, Turin and Genoa — now also threatens to make it prey for mafia crime moving up from its traditional southern Italian base.

"Lugano is certainly not Palermo," said Bernasconi, who unlike his Sicilian counterparts, is still

able to stroll the city's tree-lined streets without fearing for his life.

However, authorities have been alarmed by the arrival of the battery of shady financial companies which facilitate the financing and distribution of profits from drug-running and other organised crime.

"Economic crime is not just white collar any more, it is 'black collar' as well," Bernasconi said. "And these people are prepared to use violence to defend their gains."

Investigations leading to prosecutions in the so-called "Pizza connection" trial here, in New York and in Italy revealed a well worn triangular ring involving the distribution of \$1.6 billion worth of heroin over five years.

The drug was refined in Sicily, sold in Pizza parlours in New York and the American midwest and much of the proceeds flowed back to Europe via financial companies in Lugano and other Swiss financial centres.

The ring, although massive, is not the only one in existence. Evidence from Italian authorities suggests those involved in the decades-old smuggling of cigarettes from Switzerland via Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece to Italy are branching out into drugs as well, Bernasconi said.

The canton has fought back against the various forms of crime, not just with prosecutions but by toughening up the law as well.

After years of prodding by Bernasconi, Ticino finally decided to introduce controls last January on who is allowed to set up here as a fiduciary agent — someone who looks after other people's money. A cantonal code tightening up rules for lawyers also came into effect in June.

But such moves will work gradually and only have lasting effect if combined with measures on a national and international level, Bernasconi said.

Moves to extend and plug holes in a 1977 "gentlemen's agreement" between Swiss banks to make sure they know the identity of customers who deposit money with them would help eliminate financial crime on a national level, he said.

Internationally, Bernasconi has long argued for a Europe-wide mutual assistance convention to fight organised crime, along the lines of a 1977 agreement between the United States and Switzerland.

"International organised crime poses a danger as great as international terrorism posed in the 1970s," he warned.

Warning: smoking pesticides may damage your health

Some 1,000 tonnes of pesticide went up in smoke in smoke, which affected a million people around the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo. The fire brigade was not ready. Malika Wanselundara, a freelance journalist specialising in environment and development issues, is Earthscan's Sri Lankan correspondent.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A bizarre and little reported fire here may dampen Sri Lanka's ambitions to "leapfrog" scientifically into the future. How can this island maintain the complex technology of nuclear energy when it cannot put out a pesticide fire?

In the first week of December 1985 over 100,000 kilograms of malathion, worth around \$92,600 stacked at Mulleriyawa, in suburban Colombo, caught fire. For over a week a massive stink enveloped the capital and its suburbs, spreading as far as Kalutara, 43 km away.

The smoke and toxic fumes brought hundreds of local residents tumbling out of their houses in the middle of the night, holding their noses and vomiting. It sent over 100 people to hospital. Many suffered fits of nausea and vomiting, headaches, irritated eyes and sleeplessness. It is estimated that over a million people were affected.

Said one Mulleriyawa resident: "It was as if the sewers in the sky had opened."

Then, only a few days later, a chlorine gas leak from a defunct urea plant at Sapugaskande sent at least 15 people to hospital; many others were treated.

In Mulleriyawa, expectant mothers

were the most worried, wondering if the chemical would affect their unborn babies. Even after one week the acrid smell of the burning malathion wafted over the city and its suburbs.

The malathion belonged to the anti-malaria campaign, its storehouse sited in a densely populated area near three hospitals — two mental hospitals and a fever hospital.

The incident shows a bungling of a high order. It proved Sri Lanka incapable of tackling quickly and effectively accidents of this nature. Pesticides have been in use for several decades, but apparently no safeguards against such accidents had been worked out.

The fire raged for at least three days, and nobody yet knows what caused it. An inquiry is to be held. The fire brigade discovered too late that you cannot put out a malathion fire with water, which only aggravated the blaze. Finally, the smouldering heap was covered with sand to a depth of about a foot. It has been recommended that this mix of sand and malathion be dumped in some remote place where there are no inhabitants.

This was not the first time that malathion has caused trouble.

Some time ago, a decomposing supply of the chemical at the Civil Medical Stores caused a widespread, nauseating stench.

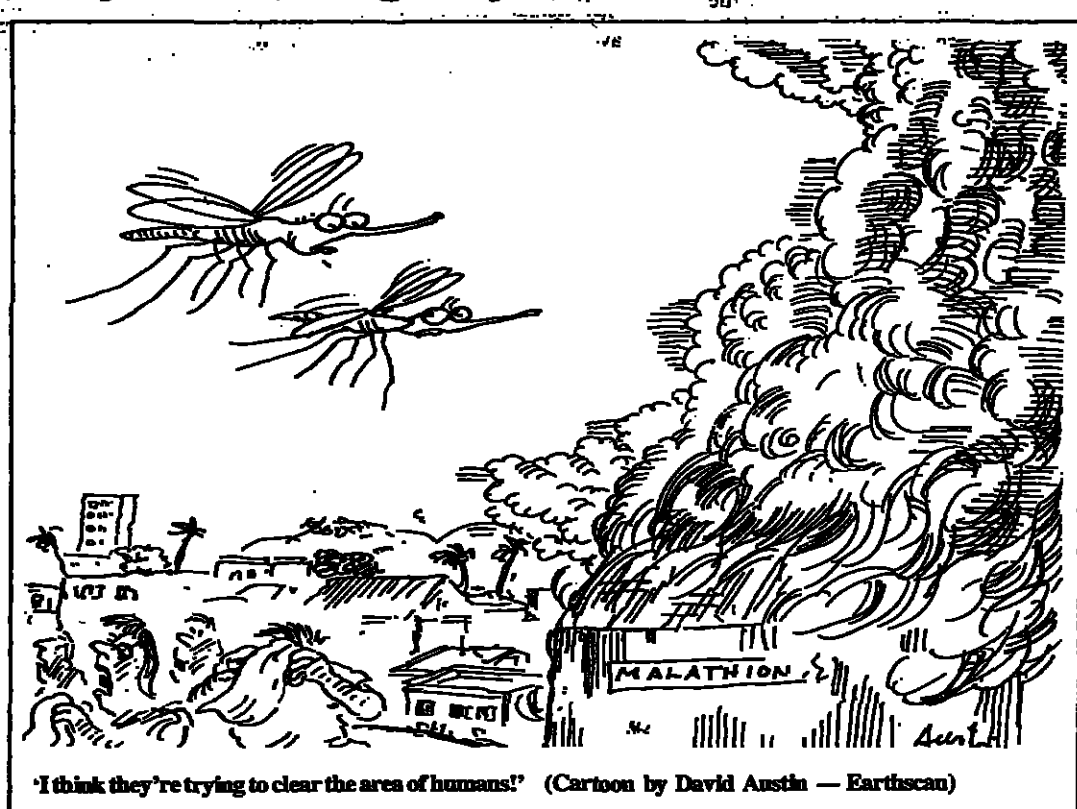
The storehouse involved in the fire was built in 1981, and Health Ministry officials maintain that it conforms to international standards. They say that an international team of experts inspected it in June 1985 and were satisfied that the building and the conditions of storage measured up to international specifications.

But the fire chief, K.M.L. de Silva, has gone on record as saying that he was not consulted when the store was built.

Malathion, often used to control mosquitoes, is considered one of the safer insecticides. According to a report by the Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (CISIR), it is a highly effective insecticide with a short lifespan. It degrades rapidly and does not remain in the environment like DDT.

But malathion has other dangers. One scientific expert says that when it is stacked for very long periods, it can change into a more toxic substance called iso malathion. In Pakistan, between 2,000 and 4,000 farmers were affected by the fumes when this happened.

The stock at Mulleriyawa, in powder form, was only a few months old. Fortunately, the hospital and health care system seemed better equipped to deal with



the emergency than the fire brigade. The victims were treated quickly and there were no deaths. Those affected have been examined at a special centre.

A team of experts from the Health Department, the Central Environment Authority and the CISIR are now studying the acci-

dent and working out safeguards. Such safeguards are needed quickly. Some 1,300 tonnes of ammonia gas are stored at a disused fertiliser factory at Sapugaskande. This will need careful disposal. After the malathion fire, residents at Sapugaskande are testing the air cautiously.

The country's highest scientific body, the National Resources, Energy and Science Authority, recently recommended that Sri Lanka put off a decision on developing nuclear energy. After the Mulleriyawa fire, many feel that it is perhaps just as well — Earthscan feature.

Film year reverses long decline in British cinema attendances

By David Lewis
Reuter

LONDON — A concerted campaign to get the British public to go to the movies again is proving a great success, reversing a long trend of declining audiences.

Until last year, it seemed that video recorders would kill cinema-going in Britain, despite a renaissance in film-making. British Film Year (BFY) has changed all that.

Ticket sales rose in 1985 by at least 34 per cent, according to industry estimates. More cinemas opened than closed for the first time in years. And a recent London film festival enjoyed record figures in every respect.

"People are talking about a rosy future for British cinema in a way we wouldn't have believed possible at the beginning of last year," BFY spokesman Keith Howes told Reuters.

With 21 million (\$14 million) of funding from the government and the film industry, the

BFY promotion campaign for British films and cinemas runs until March.

It has taken a publicity roadshow to 23 cities, persuaded film distributors to brighten up their cinemas and launched an educational programme in 8,000 schools.

Britain's film-makers have had several good years, highlighted by such Oscar-winning productions as "Chariots of Fire", "Educating Rita", "Gandhi", "A Passage to India" and "The Killing Fields".

Work on special effects for blockbuster American films such as "Superman" and "Star Wars" has also continued to bring in a plenty of work to British film technicians.

But a seemingly inexorable trend among viewers in favour of television and the hiring of videos seemed likely until recently to prestage the end of mass cinema-going here.

Attendances slumped from a one-time peak of 30 million a week before the advent of mass television to just 51 million for the whole of 1984.

Cinemas were closing or being turned into bingo halls. A country that once had more than 5,000 picture-houses could boast just 700 by the end of 1984.

The removal of government funding for film production through a levy on ticket sales last year appeared to be the final straw.

But now the tide seems to be

turning, helped by BFY and, it must be admitted, last year's dismal summer.

A recent report found the sudden upturn in ticket sales was not just a flash in the pan, while a survey on filmgoing came to the surprising conclusion that owners of video recorders were more likely than others to visit the cinema.

Laundrette" are just three successful low-budget British films to have been produced recently with television at least partly in mind.

The shoestring-budget comedy "Letter to Brezhnev" and "Turtle Diary" are two other recent home-grown successes. "Turtle Diary" was the first film to come from the United British Artists

stable, whose founders include its two stars Glenda Jackson and Ben Kingsley.

Howes believes the public has also been attracted in greater numbers by an improvement in the appearance of cinemas and in the service they offer.

"The upsurge of interest in cinemas as distinct from just films is very marked," he says.

Marketing surveys for BFY revealed that the public wanted to regard a visit to the cinema as a special event, while the owners of cinema chains had allowed their picture houses to become shabby.

"For a long time the cinema industry had stopped listening to the public," says Howes.

Now money being spent on refurbishment is 'paying off' and many cinemas offer comfortable seats, attractive bars and other facilities.

American Multi-Cinema (AMC) and the bass leisure group have opened Britain's first "multiplex" cinema in the new town of Milton Keynes north of London. The complex has 10 small screens

together with restaurants and recreational facilities.

AMC has plans to build 30 other multiplexes in Britain over the next 15 to 20 years, and the thorn-EMI and Cannon classic groups are also moving into that field. Britain's cinemas currently contain a total of around 1,200 screens.

BFY's success was enhanced by the 18-day London film festival, which ended last month. A record 161 films were shown, attendances rose to 65,000 from 57,000 in 1984 and the proportion of seats sold to 77 from 73 per cent. All peak screenings were sold out.

Festival director Derek Malcolm says he was absolutely delighted with last year's success.

"The London film festival has now become an excellent showcase for films from all over the world," he said.

"Our profile has improved enormously... we are now the world's major non-competitive festival celebrating not just minority films but cinema as a whole."

India's Catholics want independence from Rome

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuter

COCHIN, India — India's native Catholic church, which claims descent from the Apostle Thomas, is clamouring for independence from Rome as it prepares to welcome Pope John Paul next month. Feelings are high among clergy of the oriental rite "Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar," which traces its origins to 52 A.D. when St. Thomas is believed to have landed on the Malabar coast of southern India.

The church's three million faithful are expected to give the Pope a rapturous welcome on a two-day swing through southern Kerala state during his February 1-10 visit to India.

But clergy of the "Thomas Church" doubt the wisdom of remaining under the tight Vatican control imposed after 16th century missionaries brought the Roman church to India.

Restricted by Rome to Kerala, the oriental church is flourishing, with 25 per cent of the country's 12 million Catholics and half of its 12,000 priests and 50,000 monks.

Senior oriental rite clergy express impatience with Vatican restrictions which give the Roman church jurisdiction outside the south and prevent the ancient oriental church from evangelising.

"The Vatican says churches should be of the native soil. It says so, but it doesn't do it," Father Joseph Aernat, head of the Syrian church's papal welcome committee in the diocese of Ernakulam, told Reuters.

If Rome had let the native church evangelise the rest of India for the past 400 years, he added, Catholics would be far more than a tiny minority of its 750 million inhabitants.

The church has been asking Rome's permission to set up dioceses outside the south since 1920, and now seeks papal appointment of a patriarch to govern it independently of Rome.

"Every church should have a proper head," Bishop Joseph Palikarparambil of the nearby diocese of Palai told Reuters. "The Pope is just the common link and head of the Latin church, the bond of unity for the universal church."

Palikarparambil, one of the oriental bishops who put the request for a patriarch to the Pope in 1980, said: "I think it will be res-

olved very soon. The Pope said he would study it."

The Roman church's virtual monopoly of missionary work had long hampered India's evangelisation as there was a tendency in India to identify Christianity with Western missionaries and colonial conquest, he said.

While visiting Kerala, the cradle of Indian Catholicism where oriental faithful outnumber Latins by nearly three to one, the Pope will divide his time between the two churches.

But in a special gesture to the native church, he will beatify a Syrian rite priest and nun, Elias Kouriakos Chavira and sister Alphonsa, setting them on the road to becoming India's first native-born saints.

Huge crowds are expected at the ceremony and at the Pope's nine other appearances in this region of lagoons and coconut palms known for the fervent devotion of its faithful.

Oriental bishops will not use the visit to press for the appointment of a patriarch. "It is a slow process and this is a pastoral visit to the faithful," Palikarparambil said.

Some Roman Catholic clergy concede that naming a patriarch may be inevitable, but doubt the wisdom of letting the oriental church establish dioceses in north and central India.

"The Pope will have to give them a patriarch sooner or later," said father John Thattunkal, an aide to Cochin's Latin bishop. "The oriental Catholics are a strong majority here and Kerala is the stronghold of Christianity in India."

But on the creation of dioceses Thattunkal said a confused patchwork of ecclesiastical jurisdictions already existed in Cochin, where the Roman Catholic diocese overlaps with four dioceses of the Syro-Malabar and the tiny Catholic Syro-Malankara church.

"If the oriental church establishes new dioceses, this confusion would spread and could create divisions among the people," he said.

"What we need from the Pope's visit is better unity and understanding among Catholics, not more division."

Some Roman Catholic experts say the Pope has no power to appoint a patriarch.

Rugby Union hopes to reduce penalty kicking

By Robert Millward
AP Sports Writer

LONDON — Drastic changes are being advocated to stop International Rugby Union from kicking itself to death.

While some players and officials want the penalty kick devalued from three to two points, referees would like to see the rules revised so that fewer penalties are awarded at all.

The calls for change emerged after the first two matches in this season's Five Nations Championship earlier this month were decided by penalty kicks.

In each game, the side scoring the most tries lost.

At Murrayfield, Scotland's Gavin Hastings landed six penalties on his debut to kick his side to an 18-17 triumph over a French side that scored the game's only two tries.

At Twickenham the same day, England's Rob Andrew kicked six penalties and a drop goal, and single-handedly wore down Wales 21-18, after the Welsh had scored the only try.

The two matches resulted in widespread debate among players, officials and rugby commentators, who argued whether the scoring rules should be changed to alter the balance in favour of try scoring.

The tabloid Daily Mail said that next year's inaugural World Cup in Australasia could become "a goal-kicking farce" unless radical moves were made to change the laws.

In April, the sport's rule-making body, the International Rugby Board, holds its centenary

congress and will be under pressure to devalue the penalty to two points.

After France's narrow defeat by Scotland, Albert Ferrasse, president of the French Rugby Union for the past 18 years, was quoted by the Mail as saying: "The board must think seriously and quickly on this suggestion."

"There is a real problem when teams scoring tries do not win their matches. We have to find a solution."

Andy Irvine, the most prolific scorer in international rugby history, kicked more than 80 per cent of his 297 points from penalties and try conversions.

But in a television interview, the former Scottish fullback agreed the time had come to alter the rules and suggested a double scoring change.

"I would like to see a far greater emphasis on scoring tries and I think the way to do that is to increase the points for a try and decrease the points for penalties," he said.

"I think the game as a spectacle is losing out just now because too many teams are relying on just good goal kickers," Irvine told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"I don't think that the better teams always win the matches. In too many instances, the poorer side, purely because they've got a very good goal kicker, is winning."

Irvine said that rather than inv-

ite players to run the ball from deep positions, many coaches laid emphasis on using tactical kicks to keep the opposition pinned in its own half. The result often was opponents being forced to give away penalties from positions well in range of a good kicker.

Irvine also advocated a re-assessment of the points awarded for a conversion.

"Quite often you'll see a tremendous try when the ball is played along the line to the winger, who beats two men and then dives and scores a try near the corner flag."

"The chances of kicking a goal (conversion) are pretty slim because it's a long way out, whereas you can get a pushover scrum underneath the bar and the next two points from the conversion are a formality."

"I don't think that's fair. I don't think there's enough incentive to throw the ball around," said Irvine.

With the second series of Five Nations matches due to take place on Saturday — Wales facing Scotland and France hosting defending champion Ireland — officials are bracing for another stream of penalties.

Denzil Lloyd, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union's referees' committee, has another solution for solving the problem.

"We want to eliminate the number of penalties in the game, rather than devalue the kick itself," Lloyd was quoted as saying in the British press.

"All penalties should be taken out of the game except for foul play, and then every kick would be taken from in front of the posts."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jordan blanked in Asian squash tourney

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Defending champion Pakistan, Singapore, India and Malaysia won their second consecutive matches Tuesday in the first round of the men's team event of the 3rd Asian Squash Championships. Pakistan blanked Hong Kong 3-0 in Group A, Malaysia defeated Kuwait 3-0 in Group B and India downed Brunei 3-0 in Group C.

Sokolov qualifies for shot at chess title

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Grandmaster Andrei Sokolov qualified for the final eliminator in the world chess championship Monday by beating compatriot Rafael Vaganian in their semi-final in Minsk. Vaganian resigned on the 35th move of their eighth game to give Sokolov, 25, goes on to meet the winner of a parallel semi-final taking place in The Netherlands city of Tilburg between fellow Russian Artur Yusupov and Dutchman Jan Timman, ranked number three in the world.

Aussies select Wellham, Jones for WSC

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Selectors seeking an improvement in the standard of Australian fielding have included Dirk Wellham and Dean Jones in the squad for Wednesday's World Series Cup game against New Zealand. They hope Wellham and Jones will also bring about an overall improvement in the Australian performance following Monday's embarrassing loss to the Kiwis in Adelaide. Wellham and Jones are both outstanding exponents of the limited-over game. Under normal circumstances, one of the pair would be the likely twelfth man, but with only Wednesday night's game and one other before the finals, both could play.

W.German seed upset in Florida

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — American Michelle Torres beat Bettina Bunge 6-4, 6-4 Monday making the West German the first seeded player to be eliminated from a \$250,000 women's tennis tournament here. Seeded players Carling Bassett of Canada, Stephanie Rehe of the U.S. and Andrea Temesvari of Hungary all came through in first round matches, but top seed Martina Navratilova pulled out of the tournament at the last minute with flu. "I'm really upset about having to pull out because I love this tournament and was looking forward to a potential rematch with Chris Evert Lloyd," Navratilova said.

Moncrief leads Bucks to victory over Jazz

NEW YORK (AP) — Sidney Moncrief was near-perfect. As a result, so were the Milwaukee Bucks.

Moncrief connected on nine of 14 floor shots — including a three-point basket, and was 13 of 13 from the foul line for 32 points as the Bucks rolled to a 27-point halftime lead and crushed the Jazz 127-103 Monday night.

"Milwaukee led 70-43 at halftime and by as many as 33 points in the third period."

"All they could do was lose. We just played terrific," Milwaukee coach Don Nelson said. "Even when they made their runs on us we came back, made some shots and executed very well."

In other National Basketball Association games, Dallas defeated Chicago 124-116. Detroit snipped San Antonio 118-117. Denver trimmed Cleveland 124-103 and the Los Angeles Clippers turned back New Jersey 103-98.

Milwaukee dominated the boards as well as the baskets in the first half, outrebounding the Jazz 35-15, including an 18-3 bulge on the offensive boards. Jerry Reynolds added 16 points for the Bucks and Paul Pressey finished with 14. Utah was led by Adrian Dantley with 31 points and Karl Malone with 20.

Mavericks 124, Bulls 116

Rolando Blackman scored 33 points and Sam Perkins scored eight of his 18 points in the final period as Dallas overcame a 45-point effort by Chicago's George Gervin.

The Mavericks began the fourth quarter with a 94-90 lead and Perkins contributed six quick points as they opened a 106-98 margin. Chicago came within 116-111 but Blackman took over in the last three minutes, scoring Dallas' last eight points.

Pistons 118, Spurs 17

Kelly Tripucka scored 33 points, including two free throws with two seconds remaining, to cap his 12-point fourth quarter. Tripucka scored eight points during a 20-4 spurt. Isiah Thomas added 30 points for Detroit. The Spurs were led by Mike Mitchell and Steve Johnson with 36 and 28, respectively. Tripucka's two key free throws gave Detroit a four-point lead and San Antonio's Alvin Robertson hit a three-point shot at the buzzer.

Nuggets 103, Cavaliers 103

Bill Hanzlik and Lafayette Lever sparked a late first-period spurt, after which Denver was rarely challenged. Hanzlik had 12 of his 20 points in the opening period and Lever had nine of his game-high 23 as Denver built a 39-28 lead. The Nuggets went on a 19-4 spurt after Cleveland held its last lead at 22-30. The Nuggets also had a 21-5 tear in the first five minutes of the third period for an 83-58 lead with Alex English scoring 12 of his 22 points during that stretch.

Clippers 103, Nets 98

Rory White equalled a career-high with 29 points to lead the Clippers to their fifth victory in their last six games. Darryl Dawkins had 22 points for the Nets.

Paraguay hoping for surprises

ASUNCION (R) — Paraguay's qualification for the World Cup Finals came as a surprise to many, but the South American team are hoping further shocks lie in store for their rivals in Mexico.

Paraguayan soccer fans are optimistic that after a 28-year absence from the Finals the Paraguayans now have the individual skills and attacking flair to cause problems for Iraq, Belgium and Mexico in Group E.

"The best defence is attack, even against a better team," said head coach Cayetano Re in summing up his positive approach to the game.

Re describes himself as a fan of "total football" and says his players, who attack whenever possible and are complete strangers to man-to-man marking, are well suited to the style.

But he acknowledged the side had their faults. "They still lack speed in positioning themselves and in getting rid of the ball, but they have the basics which are talent, creativity and confidence."

The man to watch in the Par-

aguayan line-up is midfielder Julio Cesar Romero, or "Romerito," who plays for the Rio Club Fiminese.

Romerito wears the number 10 jersey like Diego Maradona and, like the Argentine captain, he also provides the inspiration for his teammates.

He is known in Paraguay as "Mister America" after a Venezuelan magazine recently dubbed him the best player on the continent.

Argentines and Brazilians might raise a quizzical eyebrow at the description but there is no doubt that Romerito, with able support from fellow midfielders Adelfino Canete and Jorge Amado Nunes, is among the brightest stars of the Latin American football firmament.

Other notable players in the squad include striker Roberto Canas, now playing for the Colombian club America after a spell with the New York Cosmos, and two players from Colombia's Deportivo De Cali — goalkeeper Roberto Fernandez and forward

Buenaventura Ferreira.

Paraguay first reached the World Cup Finals in 1930 where they lost against the United States and Belgium.

In the 1950 Finals they managed a draw with Sweden but went down to Italy. Two World Cups later they were drubbed 7-3 by France, drew with Yugoslavia, and beat Scotland 3-2.

They reached Mexico by winning the play-offs between the runners-up in the Latin American qualifying groups.

They proved their pedigree by drawing 1-1 with the much-fancied Brazilians in Rio.

The squad for Mexico begins practising this week for a tour at the end of the month to the United States and Canada.

They play fellow World Cup qualifiers Canada in Vancouver on January 29 and in February will take part in a tournament in Miami with Canada, the United States, Jamaica, Uruguay and Colombian club side Deportivo De Cali.

American football winning combination: 'ballet, chess, and grievous bodily harm'

By Andrew Warshaw
AP Sports Writer

LONDON — Millions of Europeans stayed up until the early hours of the morning Monday to view the sports spectacle of the Super Bowl, America's premier football attraction.

In Britain, where gridiron football has become a craze, the climax to the National Football League season was broadcast live on national television and generated huge excitement.

Viewers in West Germany, France, The Netherlands and seven other European countries watched on cable TV as the Chicago Bears demolished the New England Patriots 46-10 at Super Bowl XX in New Orleans.

Super Bowl fever reached a peak in Britain, where the Channel Four network broadcast the game live for the fourth straight year.

Channel Four's weekly programme of NFL highlights, which began in November 1982, attracted thousands of new converts this season and had 4.2 million viewers for the playoff games earlier this month — the station's fourth-most popular show.

Officials estimated that up to 10 million fans had tuned in at some stage during the Super Bowl, many at American-style parties complete with beer, hamburgers and other football fare.

One of the biggest and noisiest parties was at Channel Four's Super Bowl studio, set up at the downtown video cafe.

Six hundred selected guests — a mixture of Americans and football-mad Britons — were invited to help create a typical championship-game atmosphere. Many wore Bears and Patriots colours.

Caroline Lowe, a Patriots backer from Brewster, Massachusetts, sipped her beer quietly in a section set aside for serious viewing as the Bears rattled up touchdowns after touchdowns.

She said she had only become interested in football since settling in London with her British husband eight years ago.

A few seats away, Tod Norman rooted loudly for the Bears.

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, 28-year-old Norman lived in Chicago for two years before moving to London with his English wife.

"My enjoyment of the game has increased by living here," he said. "In the states, you get hours and hours of football every weekend and can get pretty bored. Here, you get 75 minutes and really care about what's going on."

"With the amount of anti-



Ballet? Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka is shown here during his playing days for Chicago. Ditka played tight end on the last Bear team to win the NFL Championship, in 1963 (photo by Sports Illustrated)

American activity that is constantly in the news — I find it ironic and bizarre that American football should have caused such an explosion. It's a facet of British life today that I don't really understand," Norman said.

Mike Nibloch, British publisher of Touchdown, one of three gridiron magazines on sale here, said his circulation has tripled to 45,000 in three years.

"People here like football because it's explosive and yet tactically sophisticated," he said. "It has been described as a combination of ballet, chess and grievous bodily harm. I think that sums it up."

"I've been over here for eight years showing Chicago Bears football in my restaurants. At last

people have seen how good they can be," said Payton. "We will savor this victory for a long time."

Television newscasts and afternoon papers all carried reports of the game, while a 45-minute documentary on Super Bowl XX was being broadcast Monday night.

Just off the Champs Elysees in Paris, the Chicago Pizza Pie factory was decked out with posters and memorabilia and sold out of tickets to watch the game on cable TV.

When the sound system blew shortly before the national anthem was about to be played in New Orleans the customers, most of them Americans, continued to sing the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Egypt, England square off in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — England, missing first-choice players through injury and cup replays, take on Egypt Wednesday hoping for clues about North African football before they meet Morocco in the World Cup Finals.

England, who have played Egypt before, are with Morocco in the World Cup group playing in Monterrey, Mexico.

Manager Bobby Robson plans to visit Egypt in March for a first-hand look at the Moroccans who take on Cameroon and fellow World Cup finalists Algeria in the finals of the African Nations' Cup, according to Cairo newspapers.

Nine of Robson's original 22-man squad dropped out of the Cairo visit, forcing him to give second-choice players a chance.

Egypt bowed out of the World

Cup competition last July when Morocco beat them 2-0 on aggregate, and see Wednesday's friendly as a warm-up for the African championship they last won in 1959.

The Egyptians had been hoping for their first World Cup final berth in 50 years. Following their defeat, they are rebuilding under a new manager, former Wales boss Mike Smith.

The Egyptians, rarely amongst the goals, are also reckoned to be difficult to score against.

But they too will be missing stars — injured defender Ibrahim Yousef and midfielder Magdi Abdul Ghani, suspended for dissent.

The guests should be especially pleased by the likely absence through injury of Hamada Sidki, a

vigorous defender who specialises in tough tackles.

The match will be televised live and the Egyptian Football Federation expects a crowd of 60,000 at Cairo's International Stadium.

U.S. football hall-of-famers selected

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Fran Tarkenton and Paul Hornung, were among five former National Football League players named Tuesday to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The others were defensive back Ken Houston, linebacker Willie Lanier and running back Doak Walker.

The selection committee is made up of one media representative from each National Football League city plus a 29th member from the Pro Football Writers Association.

Hornung, a running back and kicker, became the 10th member of the 1961 Green Bay Packers to be inducted into the hall. A Heisman Trophy winner at Notre Dame, Hornung was twice named the NFL's Most Valuable Player. He led the NFL in scoring for three consecutive seasons from 1959-61, setting a record in 1960 with 176 points.

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SQUEEZE PLAY

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 625155

MISCHIEF

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30



★ Cine-Theatre
Philadelphia
Tel: 634144 - 634149

CLOSED AND SHORTLY WILL BE REOPENED

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198

WOMAN FOR SALE

(Arabic)

Performances: 12:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:00

Cinema
OPERA
Abdel, behind Alfa cinema
Tel: 675573

CHAINED HEAT

((Arabic))

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Pretoria rejects Amnesty report on forced labour

PRETORIA (R) — The South African Prison Service Tuesday rejected allegations by the human rights group Amnesty International that prisoners in the country are frequently beaten and made to work under a system approaching forced labour.

The service said it had not been approached by the researcher responsible for the report containing the allegations.

He had used exaggeration and unreliable references to support his biased and nebulous arguments, the service added.

Amnesty's 112-page report, prepared by professor Kevin Boyle of University College, Galway, Ireland, and published Tuesday, condemned the Pass Laws which restrict the movements of blacks around South Africa.

It detailed cases of beatings and humiliation and said thousands of prisoners had been put to work for white farmers under what is officially described as parole but in

essence is closer to forced labour.

The prisons service said prospective employers of those on parole were screened and the prisoners' written consent had to be obtained. There were other safeguards to prevent abuse of the system, it said.

The amnesty report said the Pass Laws, more than any other apartheid laws or practices, provided the context for systematic and extensive violations of fundamental human rights.

Meanwhile European Community (EC) foreign ministers Monday clarified the terms of an oil sales embargo on Pretoria ahead of a summit of South Af-

rica's black neighbours in Lusaka next week, diplomats said.

They said Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, current president of the EC council of ministers, would represent the 12-nation group at the Lusaka "front line" conference on Feb. 2-3.

All Community member states would also be represented, although generally at junior minister level, they said.

Mr. Van Den Broek told reporters after an EC foreign ministers' meeting Monday that the ministers had finally decided which crude oil sales to South Africa are banned under an EC export embargo agreed last September.

The new definition, designed to make the often-violated embargo watertight, includes crude oil available in spot markets in the Community, he said.

Chinese nuclear test extends range, targets

PEKING (AP) — A successful rocket test last September has extended the firing range and increased the number of potential targets for China's nuclear missiles, the official China Daily reported Tuesday.

The English-language newspaper published a front-page photograph of the improved "strategic guided missile," which Western defence analysts said appeared to be a three-stage rocket.

The success of the September test, first mentioned briefly last week, "has greatly increased the missile's strategic capability and the number of targets within its range," the China Daily said.

The test would improve the capability of China's other guided missiles, including intercontinental-range weapons, the report said.

"With greater flexibility and firing range, they can hit Moscow from a greater distance," said one Western defence analyst in Peking, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The China Daily said efforts now would be made to reduce the size of China's guided missiles while further increasing their mobility.

The report said the latest breakthrough was made with improved computer software developed by the 2nd Artillery Corps of the People's Liberation Army.

Asian diplomatic sources said China conducted other inland missile tests last December. In October, the government announced that it completed a carrier rocket test in the East China Sea some time between late September and Oct. 15.

Unconfirmed reports said the latter was the country's first test of a submarine-launched cruise missile.

ny's two biggest cities.

State Department Spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters the administration had been in touch with the rebels' political wing in New York and Nairobi and had been told it would announce a political programme for Uganda shortly.

He said Washington had been encouraged by the actions of the NRA guerrillas, led by Yoweri Museveni, in the large areas it controlled.

"We are encouraged by the fact that the National Resistance Army appears to be disciplined and has restored order to those areas of Uganda that it has controlled," Mr. Kalb said.

"We also believe that it has followed a policy of reconciliation and has reduced human rights abuses in those areas."

"We see no reason why we cannot have friendly and amicable relations with a Museveni-led government," he said.

Report concludes bomb caused Air India crash

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A Bomb in the forward cargo compartment caused the crash of an Air India Jumbo Jet last year in which all 329 people aboard were killed, according to a Canadian government report released Tuesday.

The report by the Canadian Aviation Safety Board (CASB) linked the June 23 explosion to a suitcase checked onto the flight by a man with a Sikh name who did not board the plane.

It suggested the crash was connected to the suitcase explosion the same day at a Tokyo Airport that killed two baggage handlers.

"There is considerable circumstantial and other evidence to indicate that the initial event was an explosion occurring in the forward cargo compartment," said the report to an Indian government inquiry.

"There is a considerable amount of circumstantial and other evidence that an explosive device caused the occurrence," said the 59-page document submitted by Art Lafamme, the CASB chief investigator.

The Air India Boeing 747 plunged 31,000 feet into the North Atlantic off the coast of Ireland without warning, the worst crash over water in aviation history.

Indian investigators say they suspect Sikh terrorists planted a bomb aboard the plane in Canada, where the flight originated.

A copy of the report was obtained by the Associated Press. Several aviation experts have told the judicial inquiry headed by Justice B.N. Kirpal that a bomb apparently caused the crash. However, they have differed over whether the explosion occurred in the front or rear of the aircraft.

Harold Piper, top accident investigator for Boeing Co., testified Monday and Tuesday that he believes the blast took place in the rear cargo hold.

"Although an explosive device could have been placed in a cargo hold in a number of ways, the available evidence points to the events involving the checked baggage of M. and L. Singh in Vancouver," the Canadian report said.

Singh, meaning lion, is a name used by all Sikh men.

The report said a man using the name M. Singh checked a suitcase onto a CP flight from Vancouver to Toronto, connecting with the Air India flight 182.

A man listed as L. Singh checked luggage onto a CP flight from Vancouver to Tokyo, connecting with another Air India flight to Bangkok.

Neither man boarded the flights in Vancouver, the report said. Less than one hour before the Air India crash, a suitcase from the CP flight exploded at Tokyo's Narita Airport.

"Therefore the nature of the link between the two occurrences raises the possibility that the suitcase which was unaccompanied on Air India 182 contained an explosive device," it said.

The report said the X-ray machine at Toronto Airport broke down while luggage was being loaded onto the Air India plane. Security officers then checked the bags with a hand-held explosives detector, but that device apparently did not work properly either, it said.

"There are indications that the (device) could have been ineffective in detecting explosives, especially plastics," the report said.

3 killed, 30 hurt in Haiti demonstration

CAP HAITIEN, Haiti (R) — Three people, including two children, were killed by security forces during the biggest demonstration seen in Haiti against President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier, residents and hospital sources said.

They said more than 30 people were hurt Sunday. Most were clubbed by troops or militia.

Men, women and children chanting "a bas Duvalier" (down with Duvalier) threw stones at security forces and blocked roads in the second day of protests. Troops and militiamen fired hundreds of rounds in the air to scatter thousands of demonstrators in this picturesque resort.

News spread by word of mouth that well-known tailor Christophe Chaneel, 50, had been killed in a burst of machinegun fire which ripped through his house.

Hospital sources said Adeline Pierre, 13, and Carl-Henri Aug-

ustin, 10, had died Sunday night from bullet wounds.

Chaneel's friends said he had nothing to do with the demonstration against Duvalier and was hit when security forces fired near his house.

Hundreds of passengers of an American cruise liner were rounded up by the crew as they stopped in the grimy streets of this town when the protests broke out.

Many foreign tourists returned to the capital where there have been no significant street protests. Three students were killed by security forces in anti-Duvalier protests in the western town of Gonaives in November and foreign observers said the movement against Duvalier, who has ruled this impoverished Caribbean nation since 1971, was gaining force.

Cap Haitien's doctors gave foreign reporters copies of a note they handed to the armed forces, in which they "protest ene-

Philippine military on alert in Manila for rebel death squads

MANILA (Agencies) — The military declared a red alert and called out special anti-guerrilla teams, saying Communist death squads were roaming Manila to wreck next month's presidential election.

Maj.-Gen. Prospero Olivas, in charge of the capital's security, told a hastily summoned meeting of commanders Monday night that 200 to 300 urban guerrillas of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) had fanned out across the city, the official Philippine News Agency reported.

Gen. Olivas ordered checkpoints to be set up in a search for rebels and arms but there was no sign of a major increase in security in the centre of Manila Tuesday.

The opposition has repeatedly charged that President Ferdinand Marcos might reimpose martial law, clamped on the country from 1972 to 1981, and call off the Feb. 7 poll if he thought he was going to lose.

Western diplomats said the decision to put the capital's paramilitary police on the highest level of combat readiness in the last 10 days of campaigning was not unexpected.

"It's all very disconcerting but it could be part of the atmospherics surrounding the election," one diplomat said.

Military officials in the last few days have spoken of "sparrow units" of Communist rebels infiltrating Manila and another diplomat said: "There is more than a grain of truth in all this."

Mr. Marcos told leaders of his ruling New Society Movement (KBL) at the weekend to clamp down on election fraud and violence. His order followed mounting concern in the United States — his main backer during his 20 years in power — that he might win by cheating.

While noting that Washington has been pressing for economic, political, military and social reforms, Mr. Marcos said the United States had a constructive relationship with the Marcos government "as we would hope to have with any future government."

He added that the United States is completely neutral in the bitter presidential race between Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Corason Aquino, widow of slain Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, said Monday that campaign violence appeared to be rising and there were widespread rumours of bribery, attempts at vote buying and armed intimidation.

The military says at least 12 people have been killed in political violence since campaigning started last month. The opposition says 14 have been murdered.

The White House said Monday the United States is completely neutral in next month's presidential election in the Philippines and does not expect the outcome to affect its relations with Manila.

"We believe we'll be able to work effectively with any democratically elected government, as we have with every Philippine government since Philippine independence in 1946," said spokesman Larry Speakes.

Mr. Speakes was responding to questions about a published report which said the Reagan administration has given up on President Ferdinand Marcos, even though it regards him as the likely winner of the Feb. 7 poll, and plans to work with his successor after Mr. Marcos passes from the scene. The report appeared in Sunday's edition of the New York Times.

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Mr. Marcos, speaking before a crowd in Iligan city estimated by the government at 50,000, belittled the size of Mrs. Aquino's previous rallies on the southern island, which reporters estimated had attracted throngs of up to that number.

"How many heard our political opponents? ... maybe they had one, two thousand. But they return to Manila full of arrogance, claiming victory in Mindanao," Mr. Marcos said in a speech broadcast to Manila by government radio stations.

He assailed the opposition for allegedly agreeing with Muslim separatist rebels to allow Mindanao's secession from the republic, in exchange for Muslim support in the Feb. 7 presidential election. Mrs. Aquino has denied any such agreement was made.

It was Mr. Marcos' first trip to the island 800 kilometres south of Manila, since he visited the typhoon-ravaged province of Surigao in 1984.

Mrs. Aquino had accused Mr. Marcos of cowardice for not visiting the island, the second largest in the Philippine archipelago. She also denounced Mr. Marcos for failing to develop the island and leaving it in widespread poverty that she said contributed to a growing Communist insurgency and a lingering Muslim separatist rebellion.

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Israel has too many generals

TEL AVIV (R) — The number of generals in Israel's armed